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## PREFACE

Since 1992, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), regions, and Headquarters offices have initiated many effective and innovative programs to address the environmental concerns among people of color, low-income, and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. In 1993, OEJ released a summary of EPA's initial environmental justice activities, entitled *Environmental Justice Initiatives*. This year we have completed OEJ's first Annual Report, which highlights the Agency's policies, programs, and activities that have been developed to address environmental justice issues.

As evidenced by this report, the Agency has undertaken significant efforts to improve its effectiveness in providing environmental protection to all communities, a commitment that was further reinforced by Executive Order 12898 and the Agency's completion of the *Environmental Justice Strategy*. This report accompanies the strategy to provide information about the Agency's past accomplishments and future environmental justice activities at Headquarters and in the regions.

Although the Agency can be proud of its significant achievements, we recognize that environmental problems persist and will not be solved without the active participation of all stakeholders. If you would like more information on EPA's environmental justice activities, please refer to the contacts listed on the back cover of this report.



Dr. Clarice Gaylord, Director  
Office of Environmental Justice

## EPA'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT

Two years ago when President Clinton and I came to Washington, we embarked on a mission to develop a fundamentally new system of environmental protection: one that builds on the strengths of the last 25 years but overcomes the deficiencies of the past; one that works community by community to prevent pollution, rather than wait to clean it up after the fact. We seized the opportunity to strengthen a system that promotes strong public health and environmental protection - to find solutions that work for real people in real communities. And we recognized the need to ensure that all those affected by environmental policies have every opportunity to participate in making those policies.

This Environmental Justice Annual Report highlights EPA Headquarters and regional successes in 1994, an unprecedented year for environmental justice action and awareness in the federal government. In February, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," and established the nation's first Interagency Working Group on environmental justice. I established environmental justice as a guiding principle in EPA decision-making. To improve EPA's efforts to protect all communities, I established the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a stakeholder group that provides guidance to the Agency.

This report accompanies the new *Environmental Justice Strategy: Executive Order 12898* that sets a course for Agency action on environmental justice.

All Americans deserve clean air, pure water, land that is safe to live on, and food that is safe to eat. Although we have made significant progress, some communities continue to bear a disproportionate burden of pollution. Much remains to be done to achieve environmental protection for every American. Environmental justice will continue to require creativity and innovation and the development of stronger partnerships with those affected by environmental decisions.

We must all work together to ensure strong public health and environmental protection. We at EPA remain committed to this mission.



Carol M. Browner

# MAJOR EVENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT

|      |   |      |  |      |   |      |  |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|------|---|------|--|------|--|
| 1971 | CEQ's annual report acknowledges racial discrimination adversely affects urban poor and the quality of their environment. | 1979 | Robert Bullard's study of an affluent African American community's attempt to block the siting of a sanitary landfill. | 1982 | Warren County, North Carolina demonstration against PCB landfill.   | 1987 | United Church of Christ issues report entitled <i>Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States</i> . | 1990 | Michigan Coalition Conference releases <i>Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards</i> report.      |
|      |   | 1983 | GAO report states that 3 of 4 hazardous waste facilities in EPA Region 4 are in African American communities.          |      |   |      |  | 1990 | EPA Administrator establishes the Environmental Equity Workgroup.  |
| 1991 | First National People of Color Leadership Summit in D.C. adopts the <i>Principles of Environmental Justice</i> .          | 1991 |  | 1992 | EPA releases <i>Environmental Equity: Reducing Risk for All Communities</i> report.                               | 1992 | EPA establishes Office of Environmental Justice.   | 1993 | EPA establishes the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council.                                       |
|      |   | 1991 | First of four meetings with the Administrator on environmental justice issues.   | 1992 | National Law Journal report, <i>Unequal Environmental Protection</i> , alleges EPA discrimination in enforcement. | 1993 | Administrator Browner makes environmental justice an Agency priority.                              | 1994 | Interagency Symposium on Health Research and Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice in Arlington, Virginia. |
| 1994 | Clinton issues Executive Order 12898 designating that 11 agencies are accountable for environmental justice.              | 1994 |  | 1994 | University of Massachusetts issues study challenging siting demographics.   | 1995 | First Interagency Public Meeting on Environmental Justice in Atlanta, Georgia.                     |      |  |
|      |   | 1994 | Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice established.  | 1994 | UCC issues <i>Toxic Waste and Race Revisited</i> , strengthening association between race and waste facilities.   | 1995 | Environmental Justice Strategies due to the President.   |      |  |

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| PREFACE .....  | iii |
| CHAPTER I: Introduction. ....  | 1   |
| CHAPTER II: Summary of Activities for the Office of Environmental Justice .....          | 8   |
| CHAPTER III: Selected Environmental Justice Activities .....                             | 15  |
| CHAPTER IV: Program Highlights. ....   | 30  |
| CHAPTER V: Regional Highlights. ....   | 40  |
| APPENDIX I: EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Charter Membership. .... | 52  |
| APPENDIX II: List of Materials Available from the Office of Environmental Justice ..     | 55  |
| APPENDIX III: Acronyms Used in this Report. ....   | 57  |

## CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION

All communities and persons across this Nation should live in a safe and healthful environment.

With these words, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898 on February 11, 1994 to establish environmental justice as a national priority. This was the first Presidential effort to direct all federal agencies with a public health or environmental mission to make environmental justice an integral part of their policies and activities. The Order, entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," focuses federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions of minority populations and low-income populations with the goal of achieving environmental protection for all communities.

The Order directs federal agencies to develop environmental justice strategies. These strategies are designed to help federal agencies identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The Order is also intended to promote nondiscrimination in federal programs substantially affecting human health and the environment, and to provide minority communities and low-income communities access to public information on, and an opportunity for public participation in, matters relating to human health or the environment. The Presidential memorandum accompanying the Order underscores certain provisions of existing law that can help ensure that all communities and persons across this nation live in a safe and healthful environment.

One provision of Executive Order 12898 established an Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice chaired by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Carol M. Browner and comprised of the heads of eleven departments/agencies and several White House offices. These include the Environmental Protection Agency, the Departments of Justice, Defense, Energy, Labor, Interior, Transportation, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, and Health and Human Services, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Domestic Policy Council, and the Council of Economic Advisors. In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and National Aeronautics and Space Administration have participated in the IWG.

The IWG established eight task forces to concentrate on areas that required the most coordination. The task forces are: 1) Research and Health; 2) Outreach; 3) Data; 4) Enforcement and Compliance; 5) Implementation; 6) Native American; 7) Guidance; and 8) Interagency Projects. Each task force is chaired by two agencies with representation from each of the participating agencies (see the organizational structure of the IWG on following page).

The Executive Order also directs the IWG to develop interagency model projects, thereby sharing resources and technical expertise to address possible disproportionately high and adverse effects on human health or the environment. Themes of these interagency projects include clinical studies to determine whether patterns of health effects can be linked to disparate environmental exposures to toxins; local community remediation, clean up, and redevelopment efforts; and collaborative efforts to enhance public participation and involvement in environmental decision-making through public hearings, forums, and citizens' advisory boards. While the products of the Interagency Working Group are still preliminary, the cooperation of these agencies will go a long way toward advancing a national environmental justice agenda.

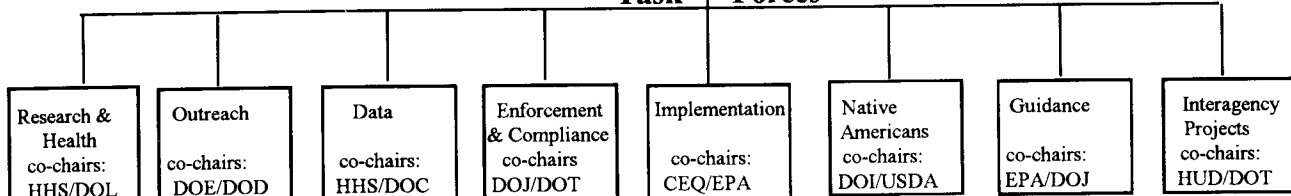
## **Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice**

**Chair: Carol Browner, EPA Administrator**  
**Cabinet Secretaries of DOC, DOD, DOE, DOI,**  
**DOJ, DOL, DOT, HHS, HUD, and USDA**  
**Heads of CEA, CEQ, DPC,**  
**OMB, OSTP, NRC, NASA**

### **Subcommittee on Policy and Coordination**

**Task Force Co-Chairs from Agencies and**  
**Representatives from White House Offices**  
**and Independent Agencies**

#### **Task Forces**



## EPA ASSUMES THE FEDERAL LEAD

In 1993, Administrator Browner made environmental justice an EPA priority when she assumed office. In an Agency-wide meeting, she stated that "many people of color, low- income and Native American communities have raised concerns that they suffer a disproportionate burden of health consequences due to the siting of industrial plants and waste dumps, and from exposure to pesticides or other toxic chemicals at home and on the job and that environmental programs do not adequately address these disproportionate exposures . . . EPA is committed to addressing these concerns and is assuming a leadership role in environmental justice to enhance environmental quality for all residents of the United States. Incorporating environmental justice into everyday Agency activities and decisions will be a major undertaking. Fundamental reform will be needed in Agency operations."

To achieve this reform, Administrator Browner outlined a five point strategy for Agency action:

1. environmental justice must be integrated fully and consistently into the Agency's policies, programs, and activities; 2) additional research is needed to address human health and environmental risks among populations, including the identification of multiple and cumulative exposures or synergistic effects;
  2. environmental data must be collected, analyzed, and disseminated routinely, particularly for data comparing environmental and human health risks to populations identified by national origin, income, and race; 4) compliance monitoring, inspections, and enforcement actions must be strengthened and have a multi-media focus; and 5) there must be early involvement in the Agency's activities by all stakeholders (community residents, state, tribal, and local governments, environmental groups, and businesses) and information on human health and the environment should be clear and readily accessible to all stakeholders.
- ### ESTABLISHING AN INFRASTRUCTURE

In response to public concerns, EPA created the Office of Environmental Equity in November 1992 (later changed to the Office of Environmental Justice). The Office serves as the point of contact for environmental justice outreach and educational activities, provides technical and financial assistance, and disseminates environmental justice information.

In 1994, the Agency implemented a new organizational infrastructure to integrate environmental justice into EPA's policies, programs, and activities. This new Agency organization created an Executive Steering Committee, an Environmental Justice Policy Working Group, and Environmental Justice Coordinators in Headquarters offices and the regions. These new groups work in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Justice.

The Executive Steering Committee is made up of senior managers representing each of the Headquarters offices and representatives from the regions. The Steering Committee provides leadership and direction on strategic planning to ensure that environmental justice is incorporated into Agency operations.

The Environmental Justice Policy Working Group, a group of high level policy staff, was created to ensure that cross-media policy development and coordination occurs at all levels. The third group, the Environmental Justice Coordinators, is the front-line staff specifically responsible to ensure policy input, program development, and implementation in all Headquarters offices and regions.

This new structure has established a clear commitment from EPA's senior management to all EPA personnel: environmental justice is a priority and must be integrated into all programs through a multi-media, holistic approach to protecting under-served communities.

## DEVISING A STRATEGIC PLAN

As directed by President Clinton's Executive Order, EPA and ten other federal agencies/departments developed environmental justice strategies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. In outlining its strategic direction, EPA's leadership identified and endorsed environmental justice as a guiding principle for its activities.

EPA, as part of its strategy development effort, initiated a review of Agency programs, policies, public participation processes, enforcement, and rulemakings. The infrastructure established by the Agency in 1993 supported the development of the strategy and ensured incorporation of environmental justice concerns into EPA programs through program and budget planning, long-term resource planning, and tracking of Agency activities. The strategy also incorporates National Performance Review recommendations, Executive Order provisions, Common Sense initiatives, and interagency efforts.

## OBTAINING STAKEHOLDER ADVICE

To ensure that the Agency would receive significant input from affected stakeholders, Administrator Browner chartered a formal committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This committee, known as the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) was formed in July 1993 (see Appendix I for Charter Membership). The NEJAC provides independent advice to EPA on all matters relating to environmental justice. It consists of 23 members appointed from key environmental justice constituencies, including community-based groups; business and industry; academic and educational institutions; state, tribal, and local governmental agencies; non-governmental organizations; and environmental groups.

The Council has four subcommittees organized to help develop strategic options for EPA. The subcommittees are: 1) Waste and Facility Siting; 2) Enforcement; 3) Health and Research; and 4) Public Participation and Accountability. The Council and each of its subcommittees has an EPA employee as a member who serves as the Designated Federal Official (DFO). The DFO assures that the group operates within the restrictions of the Council's charter.



## National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

Since its inception, NEJAC has met four times and has produced a number of products and given consensus advice to help the agency focus its environmental justice agenda. For example, NEJAC:

1. reviewed the EPA Environmental Justice Action Document (EPA's initial draft of its strategy) and made substantive recommendations which helped in the writing of EPA's final Environmental Justice Strategy; 2) reviewed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Technical Location Standards, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response's (OSWER) Facility Siting Criteria, and the OSWER Environmental Justice Strategic Plan; 3) developed an environmental justice public forum protocol; 4) created a draft workplan on the Agency's environmental enforcement needs; and 5) developed recommendations for health and research projects that may affect high risk communities. PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Executive Order provides for the Interagency Working Group (IWG) to hold public meetings to receive comments, questions, and recommendations regarding environmental justice issues.

On January 20, 1995, an Interagency Public Meeting on Environmental Justice was conducted at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Ten agencies and over 350 people attended the day-long meeting. In addition, an estimated 1,000 people watched the evening session, which was televised via satellite to approximately 40 locations across the nation including Puerto Rico. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the public to share concerns and recommend changes in the federal agencies' environmental justice strategies. Extensive comments were provided by stakeholders throughout the day. All comments and responses were recorded in a transcript that is available to the public.

In addition to the IWG public meeting, the Agency participated in an interagency symposium on "Health Research and Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice," which was convened on February 10-12, 1994. The symposium was a collaborative project involving the public in identifying research programs needed to fill data gaps in critical areas of health, exposure, prevention, and intervention. The co-sponsors of the conference included the Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Department of Energy, the National Center for Health, and EPA. Over 1,300 people, many from local communities around the country, attended a series of sessions dealing with respiratory diseases, lead poisoning, hazardous waste problems, pesticides exposure, workplace hazards, and Superfund related problems. Proceedings from the meeting were published.

## TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is charged with enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination by recipients of federal financial assistance. In carrying out these duties, OCR processes Title VI complaints filed with the Agency, including those with environmental justice concerns. OCR is also responsible for implementing the non-discrimination provisions in the Environmental Justice Executive Order regarding Title VI.

The Agency has received approximately 20 Title VI complaints since September 1993 (see chart on following page). Of the 20 complaints, eleven are under consideration or have been accepted for review and nine have been deemed not eligible. Most of the cases that were not eligible for review were defined as such because they were outside of EPA's jurisdiction. In response to the increased workload due to Title VI complaints (no such cases were filed previously), OCR has significantly increased its staff by allocating four attorneys to its external compliance program.

In addition to processing complaints, OCR is developing a Title VI training module designed to educate Agency managers and staff, recipients of federal financial assistance, and the general public. OCR, in consultation with the Office of General Counsel, also advises EPA offices and regions on the general requirements of Title VI and the Agency's implementation regulations. The following chart depicts which complaints were or were not eligible for review and the nature or subject of each complaint. Chart is on next page.

## CHAPTER II - SUMMARY OF

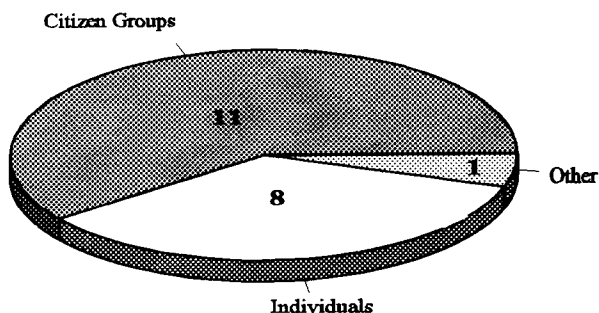
**ACTIVITIES FOR THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** In addition to managing the committees and activities described in the Introduction, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) has conducted a number of activities focused on: 1) facilitating the integration of environmental justice into Agency's programs; 2) providing technical assistance inside and outside of the Agency; 3) offering financial assistance to stakeholders engaged in environmental justice activities; 4) training government and non-government personnel in environmental justice; 5) sponsoring sustainable development pilot projects as



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## TITLE VI CASES

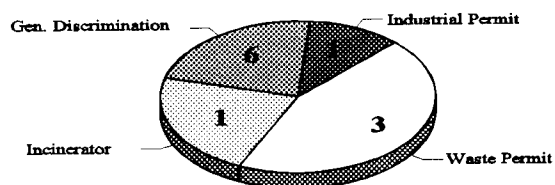
### Who Filed Complaints



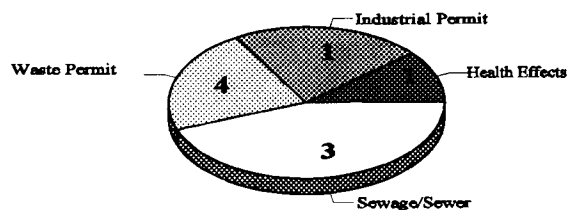
The following chart depicts which complaints were or were not eligible for review and the nature or subject of each complaint.

### SUBJECT OF THE CASES FILED

#### Accepted for Review/Under Consideration



#### Not Eligible for Review



#### Notes for above chart:

1. *Waste Permit*- cases related to alleged discrimination in the permitting of waste facilities, such as municipal waste landfills.
2. *Incinerator* - case involved permitting of a commercial toxic waste incinerator.
3. *Industrial Permit* - cases associated with alleged discrimination in some aspect of the permitting process.
4. *General Discrimination* - cases involved alleged discrimination, such as conspiring to systematically site facilities in communities of color.
5. *Sewage/Sewer* - cases related to the installation or operation of sewers.
6. *Health Effects* - case involved allegation of a disproportionate number of cancer cases.

national models; 6) conducting innovative education and outreach programs as Agency models; and 7) supporting the Agency's cultural diversity efforts.

## INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

OEJ staff have served on numerous policy and rulemaking workgroups and committees to ensure that the principles of environmental justice are incorporated into policy documents and regulations. These groups include the Farm Worker Protection Rule Workgroup; the Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities Task Force; EPA's National Environmental Policy Act Workgroup; the National Performance Review Team on Environmental Justice; the Clean Air Act Permit Regulation Work Team; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Work Team; the Clean Water Act Reauthorization Team; the Superfund Reauthorization Team; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Tribal Authorization Regulation Development Team; and the Toxic Substances Control Act Section 21 Petition (Imperial County/New River) Workgroup.

OEJ is working closely with the Agency's Indian Program and other federal agencies to ensure communication and coordination. OEJ participated on the Administrator's Tribal Operations Team, which reviewed the Agency's Indian Program and developed recommendations for strengthening EPA's tribal operations. OEJ has also served on the National Indian Workgroup, the Interagency Indian Discussion Group, the Interagency Environmental Justice Native American Task Force, the Community Enterprise Board Subcommittee on Indian Economic Development, and the American Indian Advisory Council.

Intra-Agency partnerships have also been established to ensure environmental justice integration into Agency programs. For example:

The Office of Civil Rights and OEJ are co-sponsoring and co-funding efforts to encourage partnerships with minority academic institutions and local high impact communities needing technical assistance. The collaboration has produced a national announcement soliciting community/university partnerships to compete for funds. Projects will be funded in 1995.

In collaboration with the Office of Air and Radiation, OEJ co-funded the Open Airways for Schools Program. This program focuses on developing asthma management skills for urban minority children who have a higher than average asthma death rate, which may be related to air pollutant exposures.

With the Office of Water, OEJ sponsored a series of 14 pilot projects around the nation addressing drinking water and wastewater needs of under-served rural, minority communities.

OEJ and the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances set up an Environmental Justice Distinguished Lecture Series at Howard University and collaborated with Howard's Department of Nursing to establish public outreach programs with the local community.

OEJ and the American Indian Environmental Office have established a formal liaison and are working together to address environmental justice issues, such as solid waste management, pesticide regulation, water quality, the application of the National Environmental Policy Act in Indian country, and the relationship between and joint responsibilities of EPA's Indian Coordinators and Environmental Justice Coordinators.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In 1994, OEJ staff served as keynote speakers, panelists, and lecturers to a wide-ranging audience, such as: trade associations (e.g., Chemical Manufacturer's Association, National Association of Manufacturers); professional, scientific and educational groups (e.g., the National Medical Association, American Association for the Advancement of Sciences); universities (e.g., Stanford, Howard, American); environmental organizations (e.g., National Wildlife Federation, National Forum on Critical Issues, Clean Water Action Group); state, tribal, and local governments (e.g., North Carolina General Assembly, New Jersey Water Environmental Association); community and grassroots organizations (e.g., Saint Mary of Sorrow's Church, United Theological Council, Indigenous Environmental Network); and other federal agencies (e.g., Departments of Interior, Energy, Agriculture, Health and Human Services).

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

OEJ established the "Environmental Justice Small Grants Program" to help community-based organizations and tribal governments address local environmental justice concerns. OEJ allocated \$500,000 to the grants program; each of the 10 regions received \$50,000 for these grants, which were not to exceed \$10,000 per grantee. A number of regions added their own "discretionary" funds to increase the number of grant awards. The Agency received over 250 applications and awarded 71 grants to a diverse group of organizations and tribes (see chart on following page).

Although 74% of the grants proposed some kind of education and training, the purpose of these grants varied widely. The following chart illustrates the types of projects that were funded and further defines the specific projects included under the category of education and training. Notes for above chart:

1. Data Collect/Analysis - the grantee will collect and/or analyze data.
2. Technical Assistance - the grantee has specific technical skills that it will use to assist a specific group or work on a specific environmental justice issue.

3. Clean-up - the grantee will coordinate the clean-up of a local natural resource.
  4. Education & Training:
    - On Specific Issue - grantee's project will focus on an individual problem (e.g., lead, farm worker risks, asthma).
    - General Education - grantee will conduct outreach on general environmental issues.
    - Workshops - grantee will organize workshops for education and training.
    - Student Training - grantee's training efforts will target students.
    - Partnerships - grantee will create partnerships among stakeholders to address environmental justice issues.
    - Redevelopment - grantee will develop a model for removing barriers to community redevelopment.
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRAINING

O EJ has developed an Environmental Justice Awareness Course that is conducted on a quarterly basis through the EPA Training Institute. OEJ offers customized training upon request and in 1994 the Office trained over 500 participants. In order to ensure consistency, OEJ has provided each regional Environmental Justice Coordinator with a module outlining effective environmental justice training materials. The module includes general information, slides, and a video tape. A similar module is being developed for interested community groups and other stakeholders.

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECTS

In collaboration with the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), OEJ continues to sponsor the District of Columbia's Resident's Lead Training Initiative. Five classes, totalling over 60 residents, have been held to train residents in lead and asbestos inspection, abatement, and remediation. Over fifty percent of the participants are currently employed and one resident has established a lead abatement small business and is negotiating with the District government for work in local demolition efforts.

In another project, OEJ supported the Mercado Project in Oakland, California, which is developing a public education center and small business incubator for retail outlets and related manufacturing/assembly facilities. These facilities are producing and selling commercial products using recycled materials as the feedstock. California State University at Hayward administers a business management and training program, which has prepared a business plan for the Asian American community in the San Francisco Area. The Mercado Project is training and employing people from this community to convert recyclable wood and plastic into furniture.

#### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROJECTS

Through the United Negro College Fund, OEJ supports a consortium of 12 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to provide opportunities for faculty and students to participate in environmental programs and to work with communities that are addressing critical environmental issues. The program is also designed to encourage culturally diverse students to consider career opportunities in environmental fields. The project, called "Program for Environmental Justice Education and Research," provides funds to initiate source reduction research programs, to implement environmental studies courses and curricula, and to help local African American communities create economic development strategies that will reduce local sources of pollution. All 12 of the colleges and universities are located in metropolitan areas where African American neighborhoods experience high levels of exposure to environmental pollutants. Six of the HBCUs are located near hazardous waste facilities or uncontrolled disposal sites, which pose risks to the public health and community growth and development.

O EJ has provided assistance to the Tribal College Initiative (TCI), a pilot program involving three two-year tribal colleges located in New Mexico and Arizona: Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, Navajo Community College, and Crownpoint Institute of Technology. This program will build infrastructure and increase personnel in the science and technology fields, develop and test curricula, and create the 2+2+2 educational pipeline (a program that allows students to focus their studies as they progress from the last two years of high school, to two years at a community college, and to two final years at a four year institution - at the end of which they receive their bachelor's degree). The TCI is supported by the Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE), a national non-profit organization that links community colleges to the technical resources of federal, tribal, and state agencies, private industry, and professional societies. Following the TCI pilot, PETE plans to duplicate the program throughout its Northwest and North Central regions, which together encompass most of the nation's tribally-controlled colleges.

In support of the Agency's Academic Relations Program, OEJ has formal agreements with Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland and Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Both universities provide students with environmental justice summer internships in the ten regions and both have planning grants to conduct outreach programs to surrounding communities. Elizabeth City University, through its international program, sponsors outreach activities to African and Caribbean countries dealing with environmental problems.

In 1994, OEJ initiated an innovative education and training project by sponsoring an environmental justice play in collaboration with Tuft's University Drama Department and Boston's Underground Railway Theater group. The play, "Intoxicating," was presented at the Arena Stage in Washington, DC to an audience of 400, including staff from EPA and other federal agencies, local churches, schools, community-based organizations, environmental groups, and the general public. The two hour play was developed to educate and entertain the general public on basic environmental justice issues. The play is currently on national tour for the year.

In an effort to inform a broad audience on environmental justice issues, the Office established a formal partnership with the Smithsonian Institute's Museum of American History to start an environmental justice distinguished lecture series. Since 1994, four lectures have been presented to overflowing audiences. The first lecture was presented by Dr. Clarice Gaylord, Director of the Office of Environmental Justice, who gave an overview of environmental justice and EPA's program. Dr. Robert Bullard, Professor from Clark Atlanta University and author of numerous books on environmental justice and racism, was the second lecturer. Mr. Norris McDonald, Executive Director of the Center for Environment, Commerce, and Energy presented his findings on major polluting sources and the highest impacted communities in Washington, DC as the third program. Ms. Gail Small, the Executive Director for Native Action, gave the fourth lecture on environmental justice in Indian Country. Because of its popularity and value as a training vehicle, the series will continue through 1995.

OEJ has funded the broadcast of 24 environmental justice related public service announcements on the Hispanic Network Radio. These programs provided information in Spanish on issues such as the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, the Farm Worker Protection Rule, and the Interagency Public Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Black College Satellite Network has an interactive television capability that can downlink to all EPA regions, many communities, and most of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the country. This system has been very valuable as a training mechanism to broadcast timely environmental justice topics to at-risk and other interested communities. Three such broadcasts have occurred in the past year: 1) a two-hour program that provided an overview of environmental justice issues, hosted by John Francis; 2) OEJ's two-hour response to recommendations received from the "Symposium on Health Research and Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice," held in Arlington, Virginia in February of 1994; and 3) an interactive broadcast of the first Interagency Public Meeting held in January 1995, in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1994, a total of 3,700 hotline calls were received by OEJ from community groups and individuals requesting information and assistance on a variety of issues, including how to address local facility siting issues, water quality problems, licensing of waste facilities, and the lack of enforcement of buffer zones around polluting facilities. The hotline number is 1-800-962-6215. Once hotline calls are received, OEJ records the phone call in the computer system, which the Office developed for tracking and cataloging purposes, refers the cases to the appropriate Headquarters offices and/or region, and tracks the cases to ensure that complaints are adequately addressed.

OEJ responds to approximately 6,000 requests per year for information and materials. The Office receives these requests through written correspondence, the Office's regular and hotline phone numbers, and through participation in conferences, workshops, and symposia. In addition, OEJ has developed new brochures, reports, fact sheets, and other information in both English and Spanish (see Appendix II for list of materials).

To make the latest information on environmental justice more accessible, OEJ created an Environmental Justice Bulletin Board on the Internet. Announcements about the Environmental Justice Intern Program, the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, and EPA's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan are examples of items that have appeared on the bulletin board.

In addition to the bulletin board, the Office has an Environmental Justice e-mail box (EPA30914). The Internet address for the box is ENVIRONMENTAL-JUSTICE-EPA@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV.

#### CAREER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

In recent years, EPA has initiated efforts to diversify its workforce. Through innovative and effective internships, OEJ has contributed significantly to these endeavors. One of the barriers to increasing the cultural diversity of environmental decision and policy makers is the limited number of students of color who choose to pursue environmental degrees and/or careers. In an effort to address this concern, OEJ developed an easy, user-friendly vehicle to bring graduate and undergraduate students of color into the Agency through paid internships. 1994 was the program's most impressive year: the Agency placed over 250 interns through a grant to the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO). Students were placed in all ten regions, Headquarters offices, Research and Development labs, and EPA testing facilities. Since the program's inception in 1992, over 400 students have gained environmental training, and approximately five percent of these students have been hired by the Agency. Perhaps more importantly, the program has spurred about 25 percent of the participants to change their original career paths and choose environmental occupations. ECO is currently surveying present and former interns to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

OEJ has been instrumental in continuing the Agency's Adopt-a-School Program. Since June 1992, OEJ has assumed the lead for interaction with Bertie Backus Middle School, a predominantly African American school located in northeast Washington, DC. 1994 activities included: 1) paid summer internships for ten students at EPA; 2) a mentoring program; 3) a computer lab for students and faculty; 4) field trips; and 5) river clean ups and recycling projects.

In addition to creating and managing programs to help diversify the Agency's workforce, the Office of Environmental

Justice is an active sponsor of minority interns and detailees. These individuals come from programs such as Goalsetters Reaching for Opportunities (GRO), the Greater Leadership Opportunities Program (GLO), and the Women's Executive Leadership Program (WEL). Interns have come from numerous student training programs, including Stanford University, the University of Syracuse, the University of Vermont, and the Truman Scholars Program. In 1994, OEJ placed twelve interns and thirteen detailees in its immediate office. Five participants of these programs have become permanent hires in the Office.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES**

Environmental Justice is an Agency-wide initiative that has been implemented through various activities over the past year. This chapter highlights selected environmental justice activities in a variety of areas, such as cultural diversity and employee training, communication, technical and community assistance, partnerships and community-based initiatives, data collection and analysis, enforcement and compliance assurance, and cooperative projects with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and indigenous communities. This section is not meant to be inclusive of every Agency initiative but rather to report a few selected activities from 1994 that characterize the type of work the Agency is doing to achieve environmental justice. The two following chapters focus on other significant environmental justice activities that were undertaken by Headquarters offices and the regions.

#### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

EPA remains committed to on-going efforts to expand its workforce diversity, particularly in management and leadership positions and to improve sensitivity training for managers to ensure that they recognize and utilize the talents within the workforce to better communicate with communities and other key stakeholders.

A number of Headquarters offices and regions have sponsored students of color as interns through the Environmental Careers Organization. In addition, the Office of Water hired students of color through a summer intern program with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium, and Region V sponsored interns from the Minority Academic Institutions to work in a number of the regions.

Many offices and regions have conducted cultural awareness and environmental justice training for their employees. The Federal Facilities Enforcement Office presented environmental justice awareness sessions to all of its staff. The National Enforcement Training Institute (NETI) began developing a Train-the-Trainers manual for use by the Office of Environmental Justice and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. NETI will format the manual to allow trainers with limited environmental justice experience to present a successful training course. Region II developed an Environmental Justice Training Plan and Education Program for regional managers and staff. Region VII conducted all-employee education sessions on environmental justice. Region VIII provided several introductory courses on environmental justice to encourage employees to consider environmental justice concerns in their daily work. Region X is expanding environmental justice and diversity training to all regional employees, state and local agencies, community organizations, and other interested agencies or organizations.

#### **COMMUNICATION, OUTREACH AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

EPA has made a wide variety of information available through electronic devices. For example, through the Internet, the public can now access information regarding current major announcements and databases including the Toxics Release Inventory, scientific reports, and geographic information systems (GIS). The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics is developing a set of computerized spatial analysis tools to disseminate EPA facility information and population data to the public.

The Agency has held a number of public forums to discuss environmental justice and other local environmental concerns. EPA convened a stakeholders forum to discuss environmental problems and potential opportunities for addressing environmental and resource challenges facing small communities and local governments. For example, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response conducted a series of outreach meetings to gain input from a spectrum of affected groups addressing environmental justice issues. Comments were solicited from a variety of stakeholders, including community organizations, nonprofit organizations, environmental groups, business, industry, labor, academia, and federal, state, tribal, and local governments. The Office of Water also provided funding to the Coalition to Restore Urban Waters (CRUW) to support its first and second national conferences. CRUW advocates urban restoration and provides low-income communities with job opportunities through environmental restoration projects.

In addition to holding public forums, some offices and regions have developed outreach pilot projects and guidance and identified environmental justice stakeholders. The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance's RCRA Enforcement Division, in conjunction with the regions and states, has designed a pilot for community involvement in municipal incinerator combustion cases. OSWER has also improved its outreach efforts and has drafted guidance for community advisory groups and established environmental justice community advisory group pilots at Superfund sites.

The Agency has published many environmental documents in multiple languages. The Office of Radiation and Indoor Air published meeting and hearing notices in Spanish newspapers and has provided Spanish materials and a translator

at all public meetings and hearings. The National Estuary Program has produced multi-lingual signs and brochures alerting non-English speaking groups, such as Chinese, Vietnamese, and Laotian populations, of the dangers of eating contaminated fish.

Region III is facilitating improved public outreach on environmental justice through the establishment of an "Environmental Justice" display in the new regional Public Environmental Education Center (PEEC). Tours have been given to community leaders for input on improvements to the display. Public access to GIS demographic profiles of communities throughout the region will also be provided within the PEEC.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

EPA has conducted a number of public presentations and workshops on environmental justice. For example, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance's Federal Facilities Enforcement Office (FFEO) presented an environmental justice session at the Federal Facilities Leadership Council meeting held on October 26, 1994, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. FFEO continues to promote environmental justice at federal facilities conferences and national enforcement meetings. The FFEO Office Director presented an environmental justice overview course on federal facilities sponsored by the American Law Institute-American Bar Association.

The Agency is also working with academic institutions to educate the public about environmental justice. The Office of Pollution Prevention has established a Memorandum of Understanding with Howard University, a historically black institution, which encourages the promotion of environmental science programs and the development of curricula designed to address environmental justice issues (including the review and evaluation of urban, household, industrial, and agricultural chemicals); projects related to wellness and the community; and the role of nursing in worker protection. Region IV awarded a grant to Clark Atlanta University, a historically black college, to develop an environmental lecture module to enhance community awareness of environmental issues and to inform citizens about how they can become involved by working with universities, government agencies, and industries within their communities.

The Office of Air's Indoor Air and Radon Divisions, Region V, and Region VII have worked with the American Lung Association (ALA) to raise awareness about the health dangers from exposure to second-hand smoke, radon, and other indoor air pollutants. The Indoor Air Division and ALA have helped educate high-risk segments of Hispanic, African-American, and low-income populations. The Radon Division worked with ALA, the National Medical Association, the National Association of Counties, and the State Indoor Radon Grant Program to promote reduction of radon health risks among people of color and low-income populations. The Region V Air and Radiation Division awarded a grant to ALA to coordinate a grassroots educational outreach initiative to people of color and low-income communities in Detroit and Southern Michigan and to develop a class curriculum for a vocational high school. Region V also sponsored a public service announcement on the hazards of second-hand smoke, which was filmed at a multicultural, inner-city high school. Region VII worked with ALA of Eastern Missouri to identify people of color groups and develop an education program on second-hand smoke.

In addition to working with the ALA, the Radon Division is working with states, Radon Training Centers, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to develop radon educational materials that are sensitive to the needs of people of color and low-income communities. The materials include Spanish versions of EPA's "Citizen's Guide to Radon" and Radon public service announcements; a document targeted at the American Indian community in Wisconsin entitled "Learning About Radon"

- A Part of Nature;" a brochure developed for public housing tenants entitled "Your Building is Being Tested for Radon;" and radon materials developed by the National Medical Association targeted to the African-American community.

## TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

A number of offices and regions have supplied direct assistance and training to communities of color and low-income communities. The Office of Water (through EPA's National Enforcement Training Center for Small Communities), the Water Quality Standards Training Academy, and the Small Community Outreach and Education Program, are providing training and technical assistance to small communities on the management of wastewater and drinking water programs. Region I has worked with the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Employment and Training, and other state and City of Boston agencies to provide lead abatement job training to adults from inner-city neighborhoods. Region X is conducting community-based environmental justice and pollution prevention grant application training in cooperation with other state and local organizations.

The Agency has also provided technical assistance to farm worker communities. The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is providing direct assistance to farm workers by helping to design training on farm worker safety issues. OPP is also working with the California Rural Legal Assistance Program on pesticide safety and community right-to-know issues. The Region VI Pesticides Section and Management Division is working with Sin Fronteras Organizing Project in El Paso to provide funding for training activities related to Worker Protection Standards for migrant farm workers in Texas and New Mexico.

EPA is working with several state and local officials to identify and address disproportionate impacts to communities of color and low-income communities. The Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation is providing assistance to several cities that are conducting comparative risk projects (i.e., a process of ranking environmental problems by priorities). The objective is to identify the relative risks posed by environmental problems in a given area and to develop credible and realistic action plans for mitigation.

A number of regions are working with organizations and universities to assist communities. Region I has supported the Boston Bar Association, several community-based groups, civil rights organizations, public health professionals, and environmental lawyers in the formation of the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Network, which will provide pro-bono services to low-income communities and communities of color on environmental issues. Region III has effectively addressed environmental justice issues through its work with the Campus Executive Program of Hampton University in Virginia. With assistance from the region, Hampton University has established an Environmental Equity Research and Community Assistance Center. Its capabilities include GIS data analyses, environmental engineering consultation, and scientific and sociological investigation. Region IX is providing assistance to the East Bay Conservation Corp's Neighborhood Improvement Project as part of the National Service Initiative. The hands-on project provides lead based paint worker/inspector training for AmeriCorps participants who conduct lead hazard risk assessments in East and West Oakland, California. Region IX is also working with the Department of Labor on a pilot project to design an environmental curricula for the Job Corps Program. Initial plans are to pilot this program at a new Job Corps Center in the region.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES

Partnerships with stakeholders is vital in order to achieve environmental protection for all communities. The Agency has implemented an Academic Relations Program to mobilize students, faculty, and the community-at-large around environmental issues. Over 30 predominantly people of color colleges and universities are forming partnerships with various Headquarters offices and regions. Exchanging personnel, equipment, expertise, data, and materials are key components of this program.

EPA has established community-based partnerships with other federal agencies and cities, such as Boston and Washington, D.C., to develop lead abatement projects which involve training, inspections, and remediation of lead-contaminated housing. The projects train local underemployed residents in environmental remediation and, at the same time, empower communities to become involved in the restoration of their community environment.

The Agency has provided assistance to its state regulatory partners. Since 1990, EPA has worked with the Texas Water Development Board and the Rural Development Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement programs that provide basic indoor plumbing, safe drinking water, and an acceptable method of wastewater disposal for people living in the colonias. Colonias are developments in unincorporated areas along the U.S.-Mexico border that are often plagued by substandard living conditions and severe health problems. Sixteen Texas water and wastewater construction projects are underway with a total commitment of \$123 million. About 40 plans have been initiated for projects that will spend \$160 million to build wastewater facilities in colonia communities that lack such facilities. The Office of Federal Activities provided a \$200,000 Clean Water Act grant to the Texas Attorney General to fund a Strike Force, which is innovatively enforcing state and local laws against colonia developers. The Region VI Waste Management Division also awarded a grant to the Texas Attorney General to combat illegal colonias along the Texas border through in-depth investigations of developers' activities and, where warranted, file enforcement lawsuits to discourage growth of new illegal colonias.

Other regions have also provided assistance to state partners. The Region V Waste Management Division awarded a grant to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to complete a field survey and status summary for all of the state's municipal landfills and to provide certification training to municipal landfill owners and operators. Region IX is funding the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, which has begun an environmental justice project in southwest Phoenix to qualitatively assess potential environmental hazards in a predominantly Latino community and recommend options for addressing the hazards once identified.

The Office of Water (OW) and the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances are working with Region IV on two pilot projects in Mississippi using the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) database and demographic maps. The projects will identify people of color and low-income communities that may be affected by groundwater discharges listed in the TRI and help institute local wellhead protection plans. In another project, OW has awarded a grant to the State of Georgia for 20 pilot projects in low-income communities and communities of color that have drinking water sources at risk to contamination. The grant is focused on implementation of wellhead protection programs, including a delineation of the wellhead area, identification of contamination sources, and implementation of management controls.

OW is also overlaying data from the TRI onto demographic maps from the State of Mississippi to identify low-income communities and communities of color that may be adversely affected by ground water discharges. The National Estuary Program has effectively served to provide improvements in low-income neighborhoods, such as the storm drain retrofitting project in Greenwich Bay, Rhode Island, which protects local rivers and streams from the impacts of polluted runoff. The Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) awarded two grants to the Nature Conservancy:



one to promote education and outreach in people of color communities in Southeast Chicago and the other to work for the restoration and management of the greater Calumet ecological mega-site in Southeast Chicago. GLNPO also funded the Mighty Acorns Project to provide hands-on education and habitat restoration activities to an elementary school located in Southeast Chicago.

Region I has developed a partnership with other federal agencies, state agencies, and community organizations to reduce the risk of lead exposure in people of color, low-income, and American Indian communities. Region I has also launched an Urban Ecosystems Initiative to maximize resources and adopt a holistic, multimedia approach to solve problems in the urban environment. The centerpiece of the initiative is a pilot project called "Green Spaces, Healthy Places," which emphasizes pollution prevention practices and the education and empowerment of urban communities. The Region III Environmental Justice Program has developed a draft inter-federal agency regional Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice, which defines significant environmental justice issues in the region and delineates federal roles and responsibilities in efforts to resolve these issues.

Region V and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have a demonstration project underway in the City of Chicago in which several government agencies and community organizations are working together to convert abandoned buildings into safe low-income housing. The Region V Environmental Services Division and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry are conducting an air monitoring study in Southeast Chicago to obtain data on actual exposure to residents of that community. Region VIII is providing support to the Denver Federal Executive Board, which has established a regional Task Force on Environmental Justice with representation from seventeen federal agencies. The focus of the Task Force is to develop agency plans, partnerships, outreach to targeted communities, and staff training. Region VIII has also entered into a partnership with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to start a state wide environmental justice program. As part of the program, the region provides a staff person three days a week, grant funds, and training materials to the state. Region IX has awarded several grants focused on lead education and reduction activities to community groups including the African American Development Association in Oakland, California, the Ethnic Coalition of Southern California, Lead Safe California, and Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. Region IX, in partnership with the Contra Costa County Health Services Department and California EPA, has also conducted a series of inspections among companies that generate hazardous waste in Richmond, California. Additionally, Region IX has financed and trained local community members to participate in split sampling at the Tucson, Arizona Airport Superfund site, which contains a ground water treatment facility.

The Agency has also established some international partnerships to address environmental justice concerns that cross national borders. For example, Region IX, the State of California, and Mexico, have combined to develop joint environmental and economic development projects under NAFTA, as well as laws to address environmental problems in the San Diego/Tijuana (Mexico) area and along the Imperial County, California border. This joint effort includes an international sewage treatment facility to address water contamination and sewage treatment needs for communities on both sides of the border. In addition, the Office of Federal Activities worked with the Office of International Activities to develop proposals for a Western Hemisphere Partnership for Environmental Protection, which was announced at the Summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida. The partnership will focus initial efforts on addressing problems of lead and pesticide contamination, particularly in developing countries throughout the Western Hemisphere; the partnership will also work to develop sound environmental regulatory frameworks and effective enforcement. This will be enhanced through a Hemisphere-wide network of enforcement cooperation.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Agency has undertaken a number of activities aimed at the sustainable redevelopment of contaminated industrial areas. For example, EPA has developed a Sustainable Industries Initiative to support environmentally benign and economically sustainable industry and a review of Brownfields models in both EPA's administrative policy development on Superfund streamlining and in the development of a Superfund legislative reauthorization proposal. The Office of Site Remediation Enforcement is in the process of identifying options and developing tools to remove Superfund liability barriers and encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties. The Waste and Chemical Policy Division in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation (OPPE) is also examining the scope and magnitude of barriers to redevelopment presented by Brownfields and developing policy alternatives to address clean-up uncertainty, high-costs, liability issues, and how to incorporate environmental justice concerns into the economic development potential of specific sites. Region IV has begun to assess people of color and low-income communities for sustainable redevelopment under the Brownfields project.

EPA established an Empowerment Zone SWAT Team, which provided the environmental review of the top 50 Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities applications selected by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Program empowered people and communities across the nation by providing them the opportunity to develop and implement strategic plans for the creation of job opportunities and sustainable community development. In addition, OPPE is currently working with HUD and USDA to include sustainability criteria in the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community applications. OPPE has provided general guidance on the development of an

"environmental improvement" strategic plan for the applications.

The Office of Water is considering environmental justice in its review of wetland permit applications in order to reconcile the needs for wetland protection, economic growth, and development in disadvantaged communities.

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

EPA is working with the National Center for Health Statistics, which sponsors the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). NHANES provides health data on statistically representative samples of the U.S. population, including baseline information on the health status of various people of color and low-income groups. These data are needed as a basis of comparison for studies that are conducted in "at risk" communities. For example, baseline health data collected in low-income and predominantly Hispanic communities could be used to determine the significance of human health problems along the United States-Mexico border.

EPA has begun to recognize the relationship between health risks, environmental pollutants, and diet as an environmental justice issue and priority research area. Initial research indicates that people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds and income levels do not eat the same kinds and amounts of food. To address these differences, the Office of Water (OW) is revising its methodology for developing water quality criteria to better protect the health of subsistence and recreational anglers and their families. The revised methodology will be based on estimates that more accurately reflect actual consumption rates.

As a means for improving the scientific basis of environmental justice decision-making, EPA is developing new approaches for evaluating exposure, including multiple exposures, cumulative risks, and pollution prevention research activities. This research reflects a strategy to identify and assess environmental health risks, as well as provide tools for reducing risk. EPA will focus on exposure-driven approaches that can be used as a means to identify and prioritize actual exposures. The pollution prevention research will then be targeted to identify sources (e.g., emissions) or modify business, community, and/or individual practices.

OW has initiated a joint effort with the Centers for Disease Control to identify research and response needs related to Cryptosporidium, a parasite that, when found in drinking water, can result in serious and even fatal illness for individuals with a compromised immune system.

Region III is conducting an environmental justice research project that is intended to provide a descriptive analysis of the correlations between potentially hazardous facilities and the demographic attributes of adjacent communities.

## DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The Agency is using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyze population demographics around facilities. GIS serves as an effective tool to assess populations at risk and potential disproportionate impacts to communities around federal installations. EPA is piloting a number of GIS analyses to test their methods for identifying areas of potential concern based on factors such as facility location, TRI emission-source data, population density, income, ethnicity, and other census block data. The Federal Facilities Enforcement Office has completed an extensive GIS analysis based on environmental justice parameters at 25 federal facilities across the country. The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response began using GIS, through the Landview system, to identify potential areas of environmental justice concerns. Region I has initiated an in-depth study of the distribution of potential sources of environmental risk to residents throughout New England. Region II has effectively used GIS to delineate and target communities with environmental justice concerns, particularly those in high-risk radon and tobacco smoke areas. Region VII has used GIS to analyze the ethnicity, income, family size, and locational data for Superfund and RCRA facilities.

In addition to GIS, a number of regions are conducting other pollutant distribution and demographic analyses. The Radon Division, in partnership with the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, completed the "Radon Risk Communication and Results Study." This study characterizes radon awareness, testing, and mitigation by race and income. The Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation's Waste and Chemical Policy Division is providing funding to Duke University to collect comprehensive demographic data on costs, risks, and census data at Superfund sites, which will allow the Agency to develop effective community outreach to affected communities around these sites. Region I is developing a Distributional Risk Initiative relevant to the "National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report."

The Agency has also developed new tracking systems and databases to monitor environmental justice activities. The Office of General Counsel established a computerized system to track the status of EPA administrative and judicial environmental justice cases. Region IV created a database for its multi-media initiative. The Region V Office of Regional Counsel maintains a tracking report to document the Region's environmental justice enforcement efforts, and Region X is continuing work to standardize databases relevant to the analysis of environmental justice.

## REGULATORY AND POLICY REFORM

The Agency has established a new regulatory tiering process for major regulations. Environmental Justice has been incorporated as a key factor in this new regulatory development process for workgroup rulemaking actions. In addition, the Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation (OPPE) is revising its Regulatory Impact Analyses Guidelines consistent

with Executive Order 12866 on Regulatory Review and the Environmental Justice Executive Order. OPPE is developing an analytical framework to assist the Agency in integrating environmental justice considerations into regulatory analyses and decision-making. This effort requires a systematic approach to attributing costs to risk and environmental damages that occur in highly impacted communities. Once finished, the new guidelines will provide specific guidance to Agency offices and regions on how to effectively analyze policies that impact people of color and low-income populations.

A number of offices have developed guidance that incorporates environmental justice issues. The Office of Civil Rights and the Office of Grants and Debarment are developing a pre-award compliance review and data-gathering process that would promote the Agency's environmental justice objectives. The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has issued preliminary draft guidance to aid reviewers in fulfilling the Presidential memorandum requirements for EPA's Clean Air Act Section 309 review program. The guidance will be developed in three phases: preliminary draft guidance, draft guidance, and final guidance. OECA is considering sponsoring workshops for Section 309 reviewers and NEPA coordinators to further explore environmental justice impact analysis methods and approaches. The guidance for the NEPA Compliance Program will be consistent with the Section 309 guidance, incorporating many of the same concerns and considerations. OECA is also developing environmental justice guidance to be used by environmental review coordinators for Environmental Impact Statement preparation. Additionally, OECA is conducting a pilot study to evaluate the thoroughness of environmental justice and social impact analyses currently addressed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

The Agency has developed a number of enforcement and compliance policy and guidance documents, such as the policies designed to address problems in small, disadvantaged rural areas that lack adequate water systems and basic clean water infrastructure. The Agency established the Internal Workgroup for Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) to consider changes to the SEP Policy. SEPs are environmentally beneficial projects that a violator agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action. As a consequence, SEP's may create opportunities in communities that have been disproportionately disadvantaged by environmental pollution.

The Office of Regulatory Enforcement (ORE) is revising its penalty policies to assure environmental justice considerations are appropriately incorporated. ORE, in coordination with the regions, is also developing enforcement guidance documents concerning identification of environmental justice cases and is emphasizing the need for discussion of environmental justice concerns in litigation packages and consent decrees. Additionally, ORE's Air Enforcement Division is developing the initial draft of its Mobile Sources Reformulated Fuel Gasoline Penalty Policy, which includes consideration of environmental justice issues. The Office of Site Remediation Enforcement's environmental justice efforts have been concentrated in the Superfund program; these efforts include identifying data collection and quality needs, community involvement, evaluating innovative ways to assist the regions in resolution of enforcement settlement negotiations, and the review and evaluation of current enforcement policies and guidance. Region I reviewed its enforcement policies and procedures to develop new targeting strategies for its inspection and enforcement efforts in people of color and low-income communities.

The Agency has also incorporated environmental justice into enforcement criteria for targeting activities. The Federal Facilities Enforcement Office has worked closely with the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee to revise the February 1993 interim report on methods to incorporate local government and environmental justice community concerns into the restoration decision-making and priority-setting processes for cleanups at federal facilities. Region IV is conducting multi-media inspections at targeted facilities.

The Agency has revised waste management programs and analyze siting decisions. The Office of Radiation and Indoor Air is developing waste management standards for low-level radiation waste, including language for environmental justice considerations to be factored into management decisions. The Region V Air and Radiation Division is working with state and local agencies to investigate the factors taken into account when siting certain industries in residential areas and has included environmental justice as a factor in its reviews of proposed state construction permits.

The Office of Federal Activities (OFA) worked with the Office of Regulatory Enforcement's RCRA Enforcement Division (ORE-RED) and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response to develop the Administration's principles for legislation to implement the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes. These principles help ensure that U.S. implementation of the Convention includes strong enforcement provisions to impose responsibility and require remediation of illegal hazardous waste shipments, particularly to developing countries. OFA and ORE-RED developed an enforcement action against a U.S. waste generator that had illegally shipped hazardous wastes to a South African province, placing local workers at risk.

The Office of Regulatory Enforcement's Toxics and Pesticides Enforcement Division (ORE-TPED) coordinated with the EPA Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances and the Department of Justice in the issuance of 95 subpoenas under the Toxic Substance and Control Act (TSCA) Section 21 to U.S. parent companies of Maquiladora subsidiaries located in Mexicali, Mexico. The subpoenas requested chemical information regarding use, manufacture, and disposal of toxic chemicals in the New River, located along the California-Mexico border. Region IX is also

involved in the New River case and has worked with Headquarters in response to a TSCA petition filed by three environmental justice groups: the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, Environmental Health Coalition, and the Comité Ciudadano. These groups have requested environmental relief under various sections of TSCA and environmental remediation under NAFTA.

A number of offices and regions are monitoring and collecting compliance data in communities of color and low-income communities that may be disproportionately impacted by environmental pollutants. In conjunction with the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, the Office of Site Remediation Enforcement is conducting a comparative analysis of Superfund enforcement process data for all NPL-listed sites. The Office of Water is monitoring along the United States/Mexico border to enable the Agency to better characterize ambient conditions, identify pollution sources, and implement clean up efforts. The Region VI Water Division is completing a Migrant Farm Worker Camp Inventory to facilitate monitoring and reporting on the camps' public water supply systems for regulated water contaminants. Regions VI and IX have five cooperative monitoring sites in El Paso, Texas and Juarez, New Mexico to collect pollutant and meteorological information. Region IX conducted an analysis of hazardous waste enforcement actions to determine whether regional enforcement actions varied with population demographics. Region IX used Public Water Supply (PWS) identification numbers provided by state agencies to locate all PWSs in migrant worker facilities. With this information, the Region will develop a PWS migrant worker camp inventory to facilitate the targeting of these PWS's when monitoring and reporting is not done for regulated drinking water contaminants.

In the pesticides arena, the ORE-TPED is currently coordinating national compliance activities to ensure that pesticide product labeling requirements of the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) are being adhered to by the pesticide registrants. In October 1994, the first civil administrative cases under WPS were filed against two of the country's largest pesticide manufacturers for misbranding or incorrectly labeling pesticides that may pose a risk to workers' health. EPA is seeking a total of \$2.125 million in penalties.

Region VI has reviewed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System to identify hazardous waste facility locations in which the average people of color and low-income populations are greater than the state average. The Region VI Solid Waste Section is mapping and performing demographic analyses on the populations that surround solid waste landfills in all five regional states.

#### WORKING WITH AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

In March 1994, Administrator Browner established a Senior Leadership Team for Tribal Operations to work in consultation with the tribal members of the Agency's Tribal Operations Committee (TOC). As a result of this process, the Administrator signed a memorandum requiring nine action items to be implemented by the Assistant and Regional Administrators for strengthening tribal operations, the Agency established the new American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), and the TOC participated in the Agency's annual planning and budget meeting. In addition to the new Office and the TOC, the Agency's Indian program structure also includes the National Indian Attorney's Work Group and an Agency-wide National Indian Work Group, designed to coordinate activities, offer program recommendations, and act as a task-oriented, problem-solving forum for tribal environmental issues.

In addition to consultation with the TOC, EPA has supported the government-to-government relationship through regional meetings with tribal leaders and staff and EPA participation in national tribal meetings, including the National Listening Conference, National Congress of American Indians Annual Conference, and the Annual National Tribal Environmental Conference.

In order to increase tribal environmental capacity, EPA is implementing the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) which is used to award grants to tribal governments and consortia for the development of tribal environmental programs. Currently, the Agency is reviewing and developing new funding criteria for GAP and program-specific resources that will be based on regional tribal resource needs for the development of environmental programs, to ensure that funds are allocated equitably throughout Indian Country.

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) is working to improve the Agency's solid and hazardous waste programs in Indian Country. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, a work team has developed draft regulations for tribal authorization and funding for the hazardous and solid waste programs.

One of the top priorities for the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) is the development of tribal environmental capacity. Many offices and regions have undertaken activities to further this effort. The Office of Pesticide Programs oversees grants under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to fund special projects that support tribal efforts to assess their environmental priorities and problems and that build tribal capacity to eventually accept program authorization. OSWER and the regions have begun to identify ways to increase technical assistance to tribes for solid waste management programs and have conducted several seminars and workshops with tribal participation. For example, Region IV awarded solid waste disposal funds to every federally-recognized tribe in the region and worked with the Eastern Band of Cherokee to develop the tribe's recycling program. Region V has awarded grants to tribes for solid waste education, closure of open dumps, and development of recycling programs. The region has also entered into a cooperative agreement with the Menominee Indian Tribe for the development of its

hazardous waste program and the preparation of a partial program authorization application.

The Office of Water (OW) is working with the National Environmental Training Association and the Native American Water Association to assist tribes in the development and implementation of wastewater and drinking water programs that comply with federal standards. OW is also providing on-site technical assistance, funding, a simplified grant application process, and training and workshops on managing water programs. Region V is conducting tribal-EPA Program Implementation Planning with every tribe in the region. Region VI has awarded three grants, under the Statewide Wetlands Development Grant Program, to tribes for the inventory, assessment, evaluation, and development of a long-term plan for the protection and restoration of wetlands within tribal boundaries.

The Agency has also been working with various tribes to collect and analyze environmental data. OPPE is working with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission on a fish consumption survey to determine American Indian fish consumption rates in the river basin. OSWER, in conjunction with the regions, is conducting a hazardous waste study by re-evaluating sites originally listed in the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System in the mid-1980's and adding new sites, as identified by the tribes, to the list. In addition to identifying potential clean-up sites, OSWER is also reviewing the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System to identify generators located in Indian Country and incorporate newly identified generators into the notifier list. EPA Region IV, the Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Services Division in Athens, Georgia, and the Miccosukee Tribe initiated a study to investigate potential mercury exposure pathways to tribal members and their related health effects. The Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry are conducting a Human Health Effects Study to collect data on fish consumption risks to populations, including people of color and American Indians, in the Great Lakes basin. GLNPO is also collecting information to measure and identify potential risk from persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes basin which may have a more substantive impact on American Indian populations.

In addition to general data collection, a number of the regions are working with the tribes to identify, assess, and monitor potential environmental problems. The Region IV Waste Management Division is working to identify leaking underground storage tanks and prevent future releases of pollutants on tribal lands. Region V is identifying and screening potential Superfund sites on tribal lands and has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Oneida Tribe for a remedial investigation on the reservation. The Region V Air and Radiation Division is monitoring radionuclide emissions on Prairie Island, Minnesota, where the American Indian population is concerned about the potential exposure to radionuclides as a result of dry cask nuclear waste storage. GLNPO awarded two grants to the Fond du Lac Tribe, one to conduct an assessment of contaminated sediments in the St. Louis River and the other to protect and restore wild rice habitats.

The Agency is also working with a number of tribes and universities to provide training and education on EPA's programs. The Office of Air and Radiation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Northern Arizona University designed to strengthen research, training, and public service programs for American Indians. The Office of Air is modifying the "Orientation to Indoor Air Quality" training course to meet tribal needs. Region V is conducting radon outreach, measurement and abatement activities through the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council and radon mitigation training was provided to tribal housing authority employees. Region V also provided First Responder Awareness Level tribal training courses. Region VI conducted a training session at New Mexico State University to introduce American Indian students to the field of water resources development and management. Region VIII provided Underground Storage Tank/Leaking Underground Storage Tank training for tribal environmental staff, outreach to owners/operators, and technical assistance.

In addition to specific training, a number of offices and regions conducted various tribal outreach, public participation, and communications initiatives. The OPPE Regional and State Planning Branch is working with AIEO and the TOC to involve tribal representatives in the Agency's strategic planning activities. OSWER is conducting a special solicitation of American Indian comments on its Environmental Justice Action Agenda and initiated IndianNet, a bulletin board on the Internet. GLNPO awarded a grant to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to produce a video for American Indian schools on mercury contamination and fish consumption. Region X has established a regional Tribal Advisory Committee to develop a stronger working relationship and increase cultural awareness.

In order to enhance the skills and understanding necessary to effectively implement environmental programs with EPA's tribal partners, the Agency has undertaken a number of workforce training initiatives. The Office of General Counsel presented a training course to Region X staff to orient and sensitize employees who work on tribal activities. OPPE, with consultation from AIEO and members of the National Indian Workgroup, is currently working with an American Indian owned company to develop a Train-the-Trainer cultural sensitivity course for EPA managers and staff. Region I, in collaboration with the New England tribes, provides training for regional and state employees on tribal histories, legal and jurisdictional issues, and tribal environmental traditions and values. Region X is supporting training to increase cross-cultural communication and understanding between EPA and tribes.

#### **CHAPTER IV - PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

In addition to the selected Agency activities, each Headquarters office has also undertaken significant environmental

justice activities over the past year. This chapter highlights these accomplishments. While most of the activities are unique to individual offices, a few common initiatives should be noted. For example, each program has an Environmental Justice Coordinator, who manages environmental justice activities. Many offices have also developed an organizational system or designated additional staff to work on environmental justice issues.

#### OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Office of Communications, Education, and Public Affairs (OCEPA) greatly expanded its outreach, communication, and education efforts to reach environmental justice stakeholders and to encourage more public participation in Agency activities. Specifically, OCEPA has been working with the Agency's Common Sense Initiative to address potential effects on communities of color and low-income communities. The goal of this initiative is to bring together various stakeholders, such as industry, academia, community groups, and environmental organizations, to develop innovative approaches to environmental management. OCEPA has also been working with the Office of Water's Non-Point Source Program to examine the extent to which program funds are not adequately reaching communities of color, low-income communities, and American Indian tribes, and to develop a strategy to address these issues, including alternative means of providing funds to tribal environmental programs.

OCEPA's Environmental Education Division has developed an Environmental Education Grants Program that awarded grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000 to non-profit groups, educational institutions, and community organizations for environmental justice-related projects. In 1994, a significant number of the awards went to organizations establishing educational programs that provide problem-solving and decision-making skills to culturally diverse and low-income populations. Many of these projects address the disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental risks in these communities.

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has increased its staff to manage Title VI complaints filed with the Agency, including those with environmental justice concerns. A senior Title VI attorney from the Department of Justice is currently on detail in OCR.

The Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs tracked a number of environmental justice-related bills through the 103rd Congress. Of note, five bills were specifically related to environmental justice issues and 13 were tangentially related, meaning that they contained one or more provision on an environmental justice-related topic.

The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization provided funding for a special environmental justice study conducted by Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. The study examines the effects of clean air legislation and requirements on small and minority businesses in small communities. The study targeted special areas along the Mississippi River, commonly known as the Louisiana Industrial Corridor.

#### OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Agency, with assistance from the Office of Information Resources Management (OIRM) developed a strategic plan to effectively manage the Agency's information resources, provide key information on resource management principles (including data integration and improved public access to information), and identify measures for assessing success in achieving the OIRM's mission.

OIRM's National Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program performs an integral role in the Agency's environmental justice activities through the acquisition and preparation of data and the development of generic analytical tools to estimate and characterize populations. For data acquisition, OIRM created the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Reference System (TIGER). The TIGER system is a national data set, which the Agency's regional GIS teams have used with 1990 Census block coverage data to analyze environmental justice issues nationwide. The Population Estimation and Characterization Tool (PECT) is a GIS program instrument that can be used to identify and characterize populations potentially affected by environmental hazards. The PECT, which was initially developed for use by the Office of Research and Development, the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, the Office of Solid Waste, and the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, provides a generic method for characterizing a population within a specific area, usually in proximity to a hazardous waste or release site.

#### OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

In a recently proposed rulemaking, the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) identified environmental justice as an issue for inclusion in the alternative site analysis required for issuing major source permits in non-attainment areas. In the same rulemaking, the Agency is taking comments on requirements in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit-review process in attainment areas. This action will allow the permit authority to consider any environmental justice issues raised either by the public or the permit authority during the public participation process.

OAR recently released for comment a proposed rule for tribal authorization under the Clean Air Act. The proposed rule would allow tribes to be treated in the same manner as states for the purpose of establishing and implementing federally-authorized tribal air quality programs.

The Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS), located within OAR, is funding a project entitled

"Regulatory Flexibility Analysis and Environmental Justice Support for Non-Attainment Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)." This project when completed will result in a detailed universally applicable data base that will enable demographic analysis to occur on a variety of current and future actions (e.g., a reassessment of current ozone, PM-10 and SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS as well as the reform of the existing new source review and air toxics rule). Additionally, this data base will provide the Agency with a tool by which various policy questions concerning the application of standards can be answered.

OAQPS is sponsoring a project that will examine methodologies for improving risk communication with urban communities of color that experience air pollution problems. A student researcher is working with national organizations, local churches, and the media to determine the most effective mechanism for informing minority populations about air pollution decisions being made by state and local governments and for encouraging these groups to participate in the decision-making process.

OAQPS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina A&T State University to pursue environmental justice through research, curriculum development, student and faculty development, training and internships, and outreach. The National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory in Montgomery, Alabama is working with Tuskegee University to develop alternative approaches for reducing radon levels in low-income housing.

Nonattainment areas are being computer mapped for all pollutants in approximately 20 cities. The racial, ethnic, and socio-economic status will be compared across pollutants in order to determine whether people of color populations are more likely to be affected by point source problems (e.g., particulate, lead). Additionally, nonattainment area boundaries for all serious, severe, and extreme ozone nonattainment areas have been digitized so that GIS techniques can be used to link with census data. Populations in these ozone nonattainment areas will be characterized by race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status.

The Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) is proposing the development of national standards that protect public health and the environment during the cleanup of sites contaminated with radionuclides. This approach is in contrast to the current policy of establishing radiation standards on a site-by-site basis. Therefore, the proposed national standards should promote the environmentally equitable cleanup of contaminated sites, since the same cleanup level will be applicable to all sites regardless of the make-up of the population of the surrounding community. In addition, ORIA is developing waste management standards for Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW). The Agency intends to address environmental justice issues in the regulatory development process, specifically by encouraging or requiring that environmental justice considerations be factored into LLRW management decisions.

The Radon Division is working with states, radon training centers, non-profit organizations, and other federal agencies to develop radon education materials that are sensitive to the needs of communities of color and low-income communities. It has also formed cooperative partnerships with key national organizations to promote a reduction of radon health risk among people of color and low-income populations.

The Criteria and Standards Division has made significant efforts to involve Hispanic and American Indian communities in the Agency's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) activities. For example, the Division has published most WIPP documents in Spanish and established a toll-free WIPP Information Line (1-800-331-WIPP).

#### OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has made a priority commitment in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) guidance to use new targeting approaches to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. Included as a major factor in this new way of targeting enforcement and compliance activities is the incorporation of environmental justice concerns. Accordingly, OECA requested the regions to describe in their MOA submission any innovative approaches to targeting environmental justice that they are or will be using in 1995. The resulting submissions will be the first compilation of the various approaches to environmental justice from an enforcement and compliance standpoint.

OECA established an Environmental Justice Coordinating Council to assure that environmental justice becomes an integral part of all its operations. The Council has produced three major draft documents: (1) an OECA Draft Strategy that describes the Office's goals and objectives; (2) a Potential Projects List that provides a matrix of current and future activities; and (3) Draft OECA Workplans that include project descriptions, relationships to goals set forth in the strategy outline, anticipated timeframes for the projects, and key efforts for completing the projects. In addition to the Council, OECA has formed a group of network representatives to help assure that environmental justice priorities are understood within each of OECA's operating divisions. The network representatives meet regularly for information-sharing and other activities necessary to build cross-program cooperation in environmental justice planning and implementation.

OECA's Office of Federal Activities (OFA) provides the primary staff support for the United States/Mexico Cooperative Enforcement Strategy Workgroup, which implements efforts to improve enforcement along the U.S.-Mexico border. In 1994, OFA developed a training course for U.S. and Mexican customs and environmental



officials in detecting and inspecting hazardous waste shipments. The course will be delivered at key border crossings throughout 1995. OFA also performed the following activities: 1) trained and provided technical assistance to Mexican environmental inspectors and enforcement personnel; 2) promoted interagency cooperation among agencies on both sides of the border through grants to border enforcement programs implemented by state environmental agencies; 3) initiated efforts to promote voluntary compliance with applicable environmental laws among U.S. operations in Mexico through environmental auditing and pollution prevention; and 4) assisted in preparing subpoenas issued under TSCA to U.S. parent companies of maquiladoras operating in Mexicali, Mexico.

OECA has also been involved at the Agriculture Street Landfill Superfund Site (Agri-Street), which was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1994. This site, which encompasses 190 acres and is located in Louisiana, was used as a municipal landfill from 1910 until 1960. No records are available to document the type of waste disposed of at the site during that time. In 1965, the site was reopened to receive debris from Hurricane Betsy. An African American community with three subdivisions, an elementary school, housing for the elderly, and a small business complex now exists at the site.

Agri-Street site is a pilot project of the Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model, through which EPA has implemented an expedited remedial/removal investigation. A combined Remedial Removal and Integrated Investigation Feasibility Study (RRIIFS) is expected to be completed within 90 to 120 days at the site. The RRIIFS combines risk assessment and evaluation of the extent and types of contamination with ongoing removal of contaminants. Due to the expedited schedule at this site, Agri-Street had the shortest timeframe from proposal on the NPL to actual NPL ranking of any Superfund site in Region VI. More importantly, the Technical Assistance Grant for this site was provided approximately three weeks after Agri-Street was formally proposed for NPL listing.

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Denver, Colorado was due for final decision on remedy selection this year. To facilitate completion of the Record of Decision, the parties, including EPA Region VIII, the Colorado Department of Health, the Army, and Shell Oil Company, engaged local community members in informal remedy selection discussions. Representatives from four community groups participated in the discussions. These citizens represented diverse constituencies, including Commerce City, a predominantly Hispanic and low-income community, and Montbello, a community with a large African American population.

#### OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Office of International Activities (OIA) is conducting a number of environmental justice activities, including funding a maternal-child study in China and incorporating environmental justice issues into the United Nations Women's Conference to be held in Beijing, China in September 1995. In addition, OIA held a Lead Conference for Western Hemisphere countries to develop action plans for the phaseout of leaded gasoline.

OIA has also been involved in U.S.-Mexico border activities. Abandoned and illegal hazardous waste sites are a serious problem on both sides of the United States-Mexico border. These sites can affect human health and the environment as contaminants migrate through the soil and into the ground water. By their very nature, these sites are often secret; their number is unknown and locating them is difficult. One way to combat this problem is to collect information on the waste generation rates of Mexican and United States facilities in the border area and to collect information regarding amounts of raw materials being sent to maquiladora facilities from the United States. Since 1992, EPA has developed and instituted a computerized Hazardous Waste Tracking System that will eventually enable both governments to oversee the appropriate disposal of hazardous waste generated by the maquiladora industries.

#### OFFICE OF POLICY, PLANNING, AND EVALUATION

A joint United States and Mexico border characterization project has been funded as part of an EPA initiative to improve Agency decision-making through the use of environmental statistics in strategic planning, budgeting, and evaluation of environmental programs and regulations. The project has three phases: 1) analysis of existing federal data in developing environmental statistics and indicators for the U.S. side of the border area; 2) coordination with SEDESOL (the Mexican Environmental Agency) as it develops environmental statistics and indicators; and 3) development of a report with a common or bilateral set of statistics and indicators for the environment, natural and living resources, and economic activity within the border area.

OPPE initiated a project to improve the Agency's capabilities for evaluating multiple and chemical exposures. Entitled "Who Bears the Burden," this project has two overarching goals: 1) to provide a basis for managing environmental protection in a more comprehensive and equitable manner; and 2) to devise potential policy responses to better direct resources and redress the issues and concerns.

In an academic partnership, OPPE is working with the faculty, administration, and students at Jackson State University to develop a cross-disciplinary environmental policy curriculum. The curriculum will support both students interested in environmental careers and community outreach programs. In 1994, OPPE entered into another cooperative agreement with Tougaloo College to provide direct education and training to students, as well as opportunities to expand current research into environmental areas.

## OFFICE OF PREVENTION, PESTICIDES, AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substance (OPPTS) has invested much effort in the development of a farm worker protection standard and in preparation of state implementation plans, educational materials, and training. The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) published the revised "Worker Protection Standards (WPS) for Agricultural Pesticides," a regulation designed to protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from hazardous exposures to pesticides on farms and in forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. OPP and the Office of Compliance Monitoring have developed a program to train pesticide enforcement officials to carry out agricultural inspections to ensure that employers are in compliance with the standards. OPP has also developed a "How to Comply" manual, informational videos, slide presentations, fact sheets, and brochures, and sponsored informational meetings and forums to assist employers in understanding their responsibilities under the new WPS requirements.

The OPPTS Lead Abatement Program has created partnerships with communities impacted by lead poisoning and provided grants to non-profit, community-based organizations to offer lead abatement training opportunities for communities of color and low-income residents. The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) also gave additional outreach funds to low cost lead abatement programs and education and training initiatives in affected communities. OPPT provides grants to states, tribes, and local governments to build capacity to assess the extent of lead poisoning problems, abate lead paint hazards, and ensure that lead hazards are removed safely.

In response to two citizen petitions received in 1994, OPPT became involved in a number of activities focusing on the New River along the United States/Mexico border. For example, OPPT provided a community empowerment grant to the Environmental Health Coalition to analyze and improve conditions in the New River area. Also, OPPT is in the process of analyzing information on chemical discharges in the New River and will issue a report in 1995.

## OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A primary goal of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) is to improve the scientific basis for informed decision-making through environmental justice research. ORD conducts research and related activities that identify and prioritize environmental health risks in potentially impacted communities. ORD also aims to develop risk reduction and pollution prevention options that federal, state, tribal, and local governments, communities, and individuals can use to address their priorities. ORD's environmental justice priorities are to: 1) significantly address and incorporate environmental justice principles into research and related activities; 2) conduct intramural research in areas where ORD can make the greatest contribution to environmental justice, including human exposure, cumulative risk, and pollution prevention research; and 3) support and promote extramural environmental justice research. ORD has formed an Environmental Justice Team to provide input from all ORD offices, laboratories, and centers on the implementation of its environmental justice strategy

ORD is currently working on several environmental justice projects as part of its strategic plan. ORD scientists are developing technical recommendations for procedures and equipment needed to conduct a comprehensive study of environmental pollution in the Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley. Responding to concerns about potential environmental hazards of residents in predominantly Hispanic communities, ORD completed a pilot monitoring project in the Brownsville, Texas area and is currently evaluating the data gathered there to plan subsequent phases of the study.

ORD is also studying the effects of American Indian cooking practices on mercury concentrations in various fish species prepared for consumption. Mercury concentrations in fish from Lake Superior are being determined before and after preparation. Results of the study will be used to calculate a "cooking factor" that will make data on mercury concentrations in raw fish more useful for dietary exposure assessments.

ORD is currently conducting research on measurement methods and models for estimating human exposure to lead, as well as data collection and analysis to determine total exposure and health risks to human populations from lead. This research will primarily benefit populations living in low-income urban areas. Example projects include a model for measuring lead in children, an urban soil lead abatement demonstration project, a project to map areas of multiple sources of lead, lead-based paint abatement research, a childhood lead exposure assessment and reduction study, and methods for determining bone-lead in adolescents.

ORD provided \$5.5 million for research centers at minority colleges and institutions and related educational opportunities for people of color, including fellowships in the physical and biological sciences, internships, curriculum, and educational materials and programs to promote participation of students of color in science-oriented projects.

## OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) has addressed economic redevelopment through Brownfields and job training pilots. The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment pilot encourages the safe and appropriate cleanup and revitalization of abandoned or under-utilized commercial facilities where redevelopment is inhibited by real or perceived environmental contamination. OSWER is also exploring several administrative changes which can facilitate cleanup and redevelopment of the nation's industrial hubs without lowering cleanup standards. OSWER is also co-sponsoring with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) a series of public

forums on Brownfields.

OSWER has developed an Environmental Justice Action Agenda, which features labor development and training programs to supplement these economic redevelopment efforts. OSWER is working with the Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio to develop a curriculum to train students on environmental issues and prepare them for employment in the field of hazardous materials cleanup activities.

As a result of many studies and concerns regarding populations exposed to multiple sources of contaminants, OSWER is fully supporting and actively participating in Agency-wide efforts to develop scientifically valid standards to measure cumulative risk and to involve the communities in identifying potential exposures and sensitive populations. In addition, OSWER has initiated several pilot projects to address public health needs in affected communities. For example, OSWER requested assistance from the Public Health Service to respond to health concerns of people living near hazardous waste sites. This project will improve the delivery of existing medical services to communities with potential exposure to hazardous substances and build environmental health expertise in communities through physician training and placement. In response to this request, the Superfund Medical Assistance Workgroup was established and a Medical Assistance Plan was developed, which consists of six elements to be implemented in three phases.

OSWER has established a system of Environmental Justice Coordinators in Headquarters offices and the regions, as well as an environmental justice staff office. OSWER has also created a Siting Workgroup to work with NEJAC to address the many concerns expressed in recent years that the siting of hazardous waste facilities has a disproportionate impact on communities of color and low-income communities. The Workgroup is undertaking the following activities: 1) analyzing the siting process used by states, other federal agencies, and other EPA programs, including technical and social criteria (e.g., facility impact analysis) to determine suitability in waste siting decisions; 2) conducting outreach to gather input on public concerns, work with community groups that have shown an interest in siting decisions, and gain input from industry and state implementors; and 3) developing comprehensive recommendations concerning siting issues for senior OSWER management that address technical, community, and environmental justice concerns. OSWER is also evaluating ways to expand public involvement on siting and permitting issues and is receiving additional input from the public through evaluation of the comments received on its hazardous waste proposed rule to expand public participation in the permitting process. Additional input on public participation was gained through a series of public forums held by the Agency's Permit Improvement Team, established to implement the relevant recommendations of the Agency's National Performance Review.

Finally, OSWER has dedicated staff to Agency-wide efforts to develop methodologies for identifying and addressing cumulative risks from multiple pollution sources. In this effort, OSWER is working with the Office of Research and Development, the Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation, the Science Advisory Board, and other Headquarters offices.

## OFFICE OF WATER

The Office of Water (OW) is teaming up with AmeriCorp participants from the University of Texas at El Paso and volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program to help identify and implement methods for managing existing and potential sources of contamination to drinking water wells in low-income communities and communities of color along the United States/Mexican border in the area of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad and Juarez, Mexico. This bilingual, inter-generational team will identify potential contamination sources, educate residents about how they can best protect their drinking water supplies and their health, and assist communities in implementing source water protection programs and best management practices to protect drinking water sources.

OW, working through the Rural Community Assistance Program and the Office of Environmental Justice, is targeting 14 pilot projects to help rural, low-income communities, and communities of color improve their wastewater and drinking water services. These pilot projects are designed to build the communities' capacity to deliver safe drinking water supplies and provide adequate sewage treatment for their residents. Rural and low-income communities often have greater challenges in providing basic public health services because they have fewer resources for building and operating wastewater and drinking water facilities. Results from this two-year effort will be documented for potential application in other communities with similar challenging conditions.

OW is taking action to provide greater public health protection for those populations, who, because of cultural or economic reasons, may consume greater quantities of contaminated fish. The Office has established national databases to help water quality officials and the public identify where fish contamination is an issue of concern. For the first time, a national database of state fish consumption advisories is available to provide easy access to information on the location and types of current advisories in waterbodies across the country. In addition, a national database will house information on contaminated sediment sites. Sediments often store harmful pollutants and, when ingested by fish, these pollutants can accumulate to levels that may be toxic when the fish are eaten by humans. Sediment contamination is a widespread problem but it is of particular concern in urban industrialized areas that may have higher numbers of subsistence anglers or in other geographic areas where certain populations rely on fishing for subsistence or cultural reasons. Identification of these areas is the first step towards cleanup. Finally, a national database has been established to house state data on fish tissue quality. This repository will provide the information needed to better assess and

address risks from eating fish contaminated with mercury, dioxin, and other harmful pollutants.

Studies are being conducted to provide better data for potential revisions to water quality criteria, the means by which states set standards for protecting public health and the environment. Fish consumption rates are factored in during criteria development. To ensure that these criteria are sufficiently protective of populations that may consume greater quantities of fish than the general population (e.g., recreational and substance anglers, Asian Pacific Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, low-income populations), OW is collecting data on actual consumption rates. This information could greatly improve the development of more relevant and protective water quality criteria. A fish consumption study is underway of Northwest Indian tribes and similar studies have been ongoing in American Indian populations for several years. A study of the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama, and Warm Springs Tribes of the Columbia River Basin, an area with known dioxin contamination, is being conducted in cooperation with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. This study will assess fish consumption rates, the species of fish consumed, fish preparation methods, and the extent of contamination.

OW is directing states to include waterbodies used for fishing purposes and known to contain contaminated fish on its list of priority waters. These lists, required under the Clean Water Act, identify areas in greatest need of attention and serve as the basis for decision-making regarding future

assessments, pollution prevention, and clean up actions.

## **CHAPTER V - REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

This chapter documents the regional accomplishments in the area of environmental justice. These activities are not inclusive of all that the regions are doing to ensure environmental justice; they are a collection of significant regional initiatives. Many of the activities in the regions are unique, however, there are some similar programs underway. For example, as in the Headquarters offices, each of the regions has a regional Environmental Justice Coordinator and most have also established an environmental justice coordinating structure and/or designated staff to focus on environmental justice issues. Additionally, many of the regions have developed guidance documents on environmental justice.

### **REGION ONE**

Region I has established an Environmental Justice Council made up of fifteen representatives from various regional division offices. The Council is responsible for assisting the leadership team and the regional Environmental Justice Coordinator on the integration of environmental justice into daily regional operations. The Office of Regional Counsel has also created an Environmental Justice Workgroup. Additionally, the region developed an Environmental Justice Policy and a regional Action Agenda to address environmental risks to low-income communities and communities of color and to foster innovative partnerships with community groups and other stakeholders

Region I has launched an Urban Ecosystems Initiative to maximize resources and adopt a holistic, multimedia approach to the urban environment. The centerpiece of the initiative is a pilot project called "Green Spaces, Healthy Places," which emphasizes pollution prevention practices and the education and empowerment of urban communities.

Region I has conducted a number of science teachers' workshops on environmental issues for inner-city school teachers, developed in conjunction with the Freedom House, a community-based organization. Region I has also created ten teaching modules for youth on urban environmental issues, developed a training program on environmental health risks (e.g. lead poisoning, second-hand smoke, and radon) for day care providers in people of color and low-income communities, and sponsored a conference on indoor air for managers of public housing developments and elderly housing units in Massachusetts.

Additionally, the region is participating as a government liaison in the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Network, along with representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Network consists of environmental consultants and professionals who offer technical assistance to low-income communities and communities of color that are confronted with environmental hazards. The Network offers a comprehensive approach to environmental assistance and economic development in traditionally underrepresented communities and is among the first of its kind in the United States.

### **REGION TWO**

In addition to the regional Environmental Justice Coordinator, Region II created an Environmental Justice Workgroup comprised of representatives from each regional Division Office. The region has also developed an Environmental Justice Order, which establishes the mission, scope of activities, and framework of operations for the regional Environmental Justice Workgroup. This Order has been followed by a regional Environmental Justice Plan.

Region II is working with the Office of Regulatory Enforcement's Multimedia Enforcement Division (ORE-MED) on a case involving a major utility company and electric power plants, four of which are in the Catano, Puerto Rico area. Catano is a Hispanic community in which the majority of its residents live below the poverty level. Residents of the Catano area have been concerned with emissions from oil-burning power plants, an oil refining facility, and other industrial sources of environmental contamination. Specifically, higher incidence of respiratory conditions, cancer, and

poor academic performance among school-age children are believed to be related to environmental factors. The major thrust of the case is to improve the regional water and air quality. This case documents violations of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act, Underground Storage Tank regulations, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and Superfund reporting requirements. ORE-MED is currently evaluating supplemental environmental projects proposed by the defendant utility company. The proposed projects will improve both water and air quality to the benefit of local impoverished communities of color.

Region II completed an intensive compliance monitoring and enforcement program, which included 346 unannounced inspections at 300 facilities in the Catano area. As a result of these inspections, over 40 enforcement actions were taken. A number of major enforcement actions are still underway. In addition, five site assessments under the Superfund Program have been completed.

In June of 1994, Region II initiated two air monitoring projects. One used a mobile monitor to conduct intensive sampling of air pollutants that are most closely connected with respiratory diseases. These pollutants include ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates, and acid aerosols. The second project used Passive Sampling Devices (PSD) to collect sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone samples. Because these monitors are small and simple to use, EPA was able to collect data in many areas not accessible by more sophisticated equipment. EPA also provided a number of PSD's to community residents to collect samples in their neighborhoods. In addition, EPA also distributed a number of canisters to local residents for the measurement of volatile organic compounds during times when strong odors are detected. The tests were conducted during the summer of 1994.

The region has also initiated a study of the prevalence and severity of asthma in school age children. This report will provide improved understanding of the relationship between air pollution and asthma. The investigation is being conducted by the Puerto Rico Department of Health, under contract with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and is being funded by an interagency agreement with the region. The Puerto Rico study is part of the CDC's international study of Asthma and Allergies in Children.

In partnership with the Puerto Rico Department of Health and Partners for Pure Water (PPW), a public-private partnership, the region continues to make progress in providing safer drinking water to communities that do not belong to the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA). Through the PPW, increasing numbers of major pharmaceutical companies have adopted non-PRASA communities in their areas. These companies provide expertise and other resources to upgrade or build new facilities to bring the communities into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. These actions have helped reduce the public health risk in these communities due to unsafe drinking water.

The PPW has also purchased and installed fourteen chlorinators in non-PRASA communities to disinfect drinking water. In addition, PPW supplied seven chlorinators to non-PRASA communities, which installed the chlorinators on their own. PPW has established contact with fourteen new non-PRASA communities that it will work with to solve drinking water problems. This public-private partnership, established by Region II, continues to be very successful in helping the non-PRASA communities of Puerto Rico.

Region II has completed a statistically-based study to explore environmental justice issues associated with the location and cleanup of regional inactive hazardous waste sites that are on the NPL. The study was conducted by a professor at New York University's Graduate School of Public Administration. The purpose of the study was to determine: 1) if particular sectors of the population are living in proximity to Superfund NPL sites; and 2) if certain sectors of the population have been disproportionately served by any of the processes and procedures for identifying and remediating hazardous waste sites under the Superfund Program. The study found that areas around Superfund sites have house values and rental fees that are lower than state averages but that the percentage of minority populations in these areas are lower than or equal to the state average. In addition, the researchers found no apparent correlation between the socioeconomic status of the communities adjacent to the sites and the expediency of the site clean up process. Region II distributed information from this report during the meeting of Environmental Justice Coordinators in Washington DC.

Region II has initiated efforts to improve people of color and low-income communities' access to public notices and other media that announce RCRA permitting and corrective actions. The region has provided improved communication tools, including the translation of public notices into the appropriate language of local residents and the placement of public notices in foreign language newspapers and other media. The region is also preparing training materials on environmental justice issues for new employees in these areas. Additionally, the region is conducting an environmental justice evaluation of ten RCRA sites for prioritization of permit and corrective action activities. These efforts are focused in four areas with environmental justice concerns: Buffalo and the Bronx, New York; Ponce, Puerto Rico; and Newark, New Jersey.

In low-income areas, recycling and source reduction is reportedly lower than in other areas. Therefore, Region II has initiated a project to use the Solid Waste Grant Program to support pilot studies on solid waste recycling and/or source reduction in specific communities of color, low-income communities, and non-profit organizations.

### REGION THREE

Region III has created an Environmental Justice Office to better address the environmental justice concerns in the

region. The regional Environmental Justice Coordinator works with the Office on regional activities.

The Baltimore Urban Environmental Initiative (URI) is an interagency activity being conducted by Region III in cooperation with the City of Baltimore and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The URI will identify and rank areas of disproportionate risk in Baltimore City for purposes of implementing risk reduction, pollution prevention, public awareness, and other appropriate environmental activities to minimize or eliminate these risks.

The URI consists of several components, including the Project Development and Problem Identification Report. The Report will describe the data gathering and risk identification and characterization exercises in support of the URI. Data have been gathered from a number of existing environmental and demographics-based databases to identify and evaluate human health and ecological threats. This information will be used to target risk reduction/prevention activities. Quantitative and qualitative risk assessment methods have been applied and displayed through the use of a geographic information system (GIS).

The URI will also develop short and long-term plans to address issues of concern and methods for data collection, analysis, and project planning. A preliminary short-term risk analyses has been completed using the knowledge and best professional judgement of an interagency team, including the City of Baltimore, MDE, and EPA. The team identified six areas of environmental concern that could benefit from immediate action: 1) lead; 2) hazardous materials incidents; 3) fish consumption/toxins in the harbor; 4) air toxins; 5) ground-level ozone; and 6) indoor air and radon. Individual interagency action teams have been formed to address each issue through the development of action agendas, which will address the overall goals of risk reduction, pollution prevention, and outreach and education in each risk area.

The City of Chester, Pennsylvania has one of the highest concentrations of industrial facilities in the state. The city hosts a number of waste processing plants and two oil refineries. All solid waste from Delaware County is incinerated in Chester and at least 85% of raw sewage and associated sludge is treated there. A large infectious medical waste facility was also recently sited in Chester. Many of these plants are located in close proximity to residential neighborhoods. In fact, a clustering of waste treatment facilities have been permitted within 100 feet of approximately 200 Chester residences.

These factors led the Regional Administrator to declare Chester a regional priority. In 1994, two workgroups were created: the Chester 30-day Task Force and the Chester 180-day Task Force. The mission of the 30-Day Task Force was to develop an action plan that used tools available to EPA to address the concerns of Chester residents. An integral part of the plan was to use enforcement to address environmental and compliance concerns in Chester. The Chester 180-Day Task Force centered its activity on conducting a long-term cumulative risk assessment.

Under a cooperative agreement, EPA awarded \$250,000 to the District of Columbia to conduct toxicological human health and ecological risk assessments for the purpose of implementing more effective risk reduction and pollution prevention efforts as well as public education and outreach. A feature of the cooperative agreement is to provide direct support to community groups, civic associations, and other non-profit organizations for education, interpretation of risk assessment data, and identification of community risk perceptions, risk reduction, and pollution prevention activities.

Region III's Environmental Justice GIS Demographics Analysis/Targeting System focuses on communities of color and/or low-income communities and addresses the central underlying theme of environmental justice concerns. The Region's capability to access and analyze demographic data for any area in the region allows for more accurate and consistent interpretation and resolution of environmental justice issues.

#### REGION FOUR

Region IV has established an Environmental Justice Office to coordinate regional activities related to environmental justice. The regional Environmental Justice Coordinator works in conjunction with this Office.

Region IV is currently working on geographic initiatives to gather data and reduce risk in low-income communities and communities of color. These activities include a pilot study in Mobile, Alabama to collect data on ambient air levels in an industrial area; development of methodologies for measuring and assessing atmosphere deposition of mercury in South Florida; the Atlanta Environmental Priorities Project, which will develop a comprehensive plan for addressing environmental risks; and a data collection and model exposure project with the Commonwealth of Kentucky to monitor toxic releases from numerous industries affecting the Tri-State area of Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. The region has also selected the Tennessee Products Superfund site, located in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as a pilot site for a Community Advisory Group. Additionally, the region provided assistance to Keysville, Georgia, a small rural, low-income community of color, to develop a wellhead protection plan for the city's only drinking water source.

The region has also developed and is in the process of implementing the Tift County Georgia Environmental Justice Geographic Initiative. This pilot project will study waste sites located in Tifton, Georgia and the surrounding Tift County. A total of 19 potential hazardous waste sites are located in Tifton, which has about 15,000 residents. These include one NPL site, one site currently under evaluation for inclusion on the NPL, and six sites that have undergone a

waste removal or are currently undergoing a waste removal. EPA is working with CLOUT (a citizen's group in Tifton), the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and the Tift County Board of Commissioners to address the environmental harm from these sites in Tift County. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has also been active through existing agreements with EPA, which provide public health assessments in communities surrounding NPL sites. In an effort to highlight the activities in Tift County, Region IV's senior management officials attended several community/public meetings to maintain open communication with local community leaders and residents.

The Region IV Air, Pesticides, and Toxic Management Division (APTMD) distributes information, translates materials, and holds workshops to inform local agricultural workers about pesticides risks and provisions for worker safety. APTMD is also conducting enforcement initiatives within the Tri-State area and Mobile, Alabama to investigate and secure source compliance with applicable air and toxic regulations and standards. Finally, APTMD conducted outreach activities on radon and lead-based paint exposures and mitigation for tribes and worked with the Corporation for National and Community Service to develop radon and lead-based paint outreach programs.

## REGION FIVE

In addition to the regional Environmental Justice Coordinator, Region V has designated two Environmental Justice Coordinators in its Waste Management Division. The region has also created the Environmental Justice Steering Committee, comprised of Division and Office Directors, to provide overall guidance on regional environmental justice activities. Additionally, Region V has formed an Environmental Justice Workgroup, with representatives from each Division and Office, to develop a regional environmental justice strategy. Finally, Region V has developed an Environmental Justice Policy Statement and a tracking report to assess the implementation of regional environmental justice goals.

Region V has developed five geographic initiatives located in Southeast Chicago; Illinois; Northwest Indiana; Cleveland, Ohio; Southeast Michigan; and East St. Louis, Missouri. These initiatives will build partnerships with state and local governments and enhance public outreach and community involvement. The region prepared a draft report assessing the reduction of TRI emissions among people of color and low-income populations in Northwest Indiana and Southeast Chicago. The Region's Air and Radiation Division and the Illinois and Cook County pollution control agencies developed a monitoring strategy for Chicago's Northwest Incinerator. The Region's Environmental Services Division and ATSDR conducted an air monitoring study in Southeast Chicago to obtain data on actual exposure to residents in that community.

Region V has made environmental justice a factor in prioritizing multi-media enforcement efforts and has a number of enforcement and compliance geographic initiatives, mostly focused in urban areas with significant people of color and/or low-income populations. The regional Air and Radiation Division is actively pursuing pollution sources in urban areas through industry specific enforcement initiatives targeted at facilities such as refineries, steel mills, and foundries. The Division has also developed an asbestos non-notifier initiative targeted at low-income communities and communities of color. The initiative is designed to stop the practice of demolishing buildings without notifying EPA to ensure that any existing asbestos is properly handled.

The Great Lakes National Program Office is collecting information to measure and identify potential risk from persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes basin, which may disproportionately affect people of color and American Indian populations. The Office has also awarded two grants to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission: 1) to assist the tribes in evaluating their role and promoting their involvement in the management of the Great Lakes environment, and 2) to produce a video for American Indian schools on mercury contamination and fish consumption.

## REGION SIX

Region VI has established an Environmental Justice Committee, comprised of representatives from each Division and the Offices of Regional Counsel and External Affairs. Additionally, the Regional Administrator has committed over one-third of her discretionary funds for environmental justice projects, including support for state environmental justice offices and programs, the Tulane Medical Research's Health Surveillance Pilot Program, and the Peace and Justice Organization's youth play.

The region conducted an initial activity survey for the Louisiana Industrial Corridor between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Based on the survey, a correlation analysis will be performed in an attempt to define the relationship between accidental chemical releases and racial and economic population characteristics. The study will contrast this area with the "top twenty accidental release frequency counties" and the region as a whole.

Region VI conducted a Case Development Sampling Inspection at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. Of 15 samples collected, only two had concentrations of lead above the detection limit. The facility is of concern to the East Environmental Leadership Committee, whose membership includes citizens living near the site. Region VI also conducted various community involvement activities (including public meetings, a training session, and community interviews) at the AT&SF Superfund site, located in a low-income, predominately Hispanic community.



The Region VI Solid Waste Section is mapping and performing demographic analyses on the populations that surround solid waste landfills in all five regional states. Region VI integrated census data on population characteristics, environmental factors, and household linguistics in the regional GIS so that users can obtain integrated maps and reports on any neighborhood in the region. Using GIS, Region VI also developed a multi-media inspection targeting process that uses environmental justice as a ranking factor. The Region VI Waste Management Division continues to utilize the integrated GIS coupled with demographic information to prioritize the issuance of major National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System municipal and industrial permits. The Division has also conducted environmental justice analyses to determine demographics around 107 hazardous waste injection wells.

## REGION SEVEN

Region VII has established Environmental Justice Workgroups in its divisions and offices and has formed a regional Environmental Justice Council to report on, plan, and review regional environmental justice activities.

In 1994, Region VII awarded six Environmental Justice Grants to assist grantees in the development or continuation of environmental justice activities. The region is addressing environmental issues on tribal lands by ensuring that its programs provide assistance and identify ways to assist tribes and increase cultural awareness of Region VII staff. General assistance agreements which include solid waste and underground storage tank activities have been established for each tribe.

The regional Superfund Division completed a screening process to identify areas within the region that could have potential environmental justice related problems. The two areas to be targeted as part of a focused environmental strategy are St. Louis, Missouri, an urban area, and Jasper County, Missouri, a rural area. The pilot projects will allow the region to test its targeting methodology and work collaboratively with federal, state, and local government officials. This will include the following activities: 1) development of an economic Brownfields redevelopment initiative with St. Louis officials; and 2) collaboration with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Public Health Service, and the Department of Health and Human Services in the exploration of opportunities for public involvement and education of Jasper County residents concerning health issues related to the Superfund site.

The regional Waters, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division formed an Environmental Justice Workgroup that, in addition to other activities, is working with the Office of Integrated Analysis to develop a user-friendly GIS-compatible graphical data base system that contains an assessment of low- income and minority communities in the region.

The regional Office of External Programs provided Haskell Indian Nations University an Environmental Education grant to promote awareness and education on environmental justice through a summer environmental program for American Indian high school students. The Office also worked collaboratively with regional programs in the participation of the first national downlink, which aired the Interagency Public Meeting at Clark Atlanta University, located in Atlanta, Georgia.

## REGION EIGHT

Region VIII has a regional Environmental Justice Workgroup with representatives from each media program. The region also has a RCRA Workgroup to incorporate environmental justice into its siting standards and regulations.

Through the American Lung Association, Region VIII is helping to educate people of color and low-income audiences on the health dangers from exposure to secondhand smoke. As part of this effort, the region has proposed a cooperative agreement with the City and County of Denver, Colorado to conduct secondhand smoke outreach in shelters housing children, battered women, and homeless people. This program will also sponsor a Future Workers Indoor Air Quality training course for instructors in cosmetology schools. This audience, which primarily consists of people of color and low-income individuals, is exposed to high levels of indoor air pollutants and are not usually recognized in most community-based training.

The region presented over twenty-five training sessions on the Worker Protection Rule to the regulated community in Colorado and Wyoming and twelve Train-the-Trainer sessions. Additionally, the region revised the applicator certification home study course for Colorado to provide information on the worker protection rule training requirements. Information displays have been placed in most pesticide dealerships, Cooperative Extension Offices, and Soil Conservation Service Offices to alert farmers to the new rule. The region also conducted over a dozen training sessions on the Environmental Justice Small Grants and the Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention Grants Programs for targeted communities.

A regional environmental justice/pollution prevention project was initiated to target the ten poorest areas in each of the Region's states. The intent of the project is to work with the local populations to increase awareness, provide environmental justice and pollution prevention training, and encourage business participation. The project is based on voluntary actions to illustrate how industry can achieve savings while involved in pollution prevention activities.

## REGION NINE

Region IX has developed an Environmental Justice Steering Committee, comprised of senior management

representatives. The region has also established an Environmental Justice Workgroup, involving staff and management representatives from each Division and Office.

Region IX initiated a multimedia Environmental Justice Assessment Project that will utilize GIS and 1990 census data to identify low-income communities and communities of color. The project will overlay all emission and release sources, which include Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitted facilities, RCRA corrective action facilities, Superfund sites, and air toxic hot spots. The results will be used to prioritize the Region's efforts in the most impacted communities and to work with these communities to assess environmental concerns and problems. Outreach to groups and states will occur at many stages to collect information on data gathering methodology, data analysis communication, and recommendations for future activities.

The Regional Administrator visited several communities in 1994 to discuss environmental problems and environmental justice concerns. These visits included communities located near the South Tucson Airport Superfund site in Arizona; community residents, Native Hawaiian Rights groups, and environmental groups in Puna, Hawaii; and members of the Torres Martinez Tribe in southern California concerned with a local sludge operation. The Regional Administrator also toured communities in southern California that are concerned with pesticide exposure issues. Follow-up activities with all of these communities continue on an ongoing basis.

In 1994, Region IX awarded seven grants under the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. The awardees were: the University of Hawaii, to work with Native Hawaiians on the development of an informational handbook on state and federal environmental law-making procedures and to encourage native Hawaiian involvement in environmental issues; Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles, to produce public service announcements in Spanish and English to increase public awareness of lead poisoning in low-income and communities of color; the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, to support continuing work in farm worker education; the Ethnic Coalition of Southern California, to hold four community forums to discuss environmental problems and environmental justice in the Los Angeles area; Golden Gate University, to develop a guidebook that includes a list of environmental laws in California and a description of how low-income communities and communities of color can be actively involved; Asian Immigrant Women Advocates, to continue an environmental health and safety project for Asian immigrant women electronics assemblers in the Silicon Valley area; and the Environmental Health Coalition, to work with Por La Vida (a community group) to train Latina women in the community about environmental problems, risk reduction, and pollution prevention in their neighborhoods.

The Region IX Environmental Justice Coordinator and other regional staff and management also gave numerous presentations to outside groups and agencies focusing on environmental justice concerns and activities, including presentations on Lead Hazards in the Home to the Arizona Interagency Farm Worker Coalition and general environmental justice information presentations to the California Base Closure Advisory Group, the national Federal Facility Conference, and the Pittsburgh/Antioch Black Professional Women's Organization. In addition, the Region IX Toxics Management Section hosted a meeting to bring together local citizens advocacy groups for the purpose of clarifying what role these groups can play in assisting EPA's implementation of Title X requirements.

## REGION TEN

In addition to the regional Environmental Justice Coordinator, Region X has a senior staff lead who is responsible for managing the regional environmental justice program and program/project Environmental Justice Coordinators who are assigned to specific projects. The region also established an Environmental Justice Core Group in 1994. This group represents all divisions and serves as an advisory board to the region, providing guidance on a variety of issues, such as environmental justice coordination, policy issues, grants, and training.

Along with community and state participation, Region X generates an Environmental Justice Update which is distributed throughout the region on a bi-annual basis. This Update is one of the tools that the region has used to broaden its communication network on issues such as grant opportunities and training. The Updates are sent to a wide variety of community contacts included on a regional environmental justice mailing list, targeting audiences of people of color, tribes, and/or low-income individuals. The list of contacts nearly tripled in 1994.

The region has established a regional Tribal Advisory Committee to develop a stronger working relationship with and increase awareness of tribal cultures. The Committee will work closely with the region's tribal office to help address tribal environmental issues and initiatives including tribal fish consumption studies and the Alaska Native Villages Rural Sanitation Initiative.

In 1994, Region X sponsored a successful all-day community grants training workshop. The regional Environmental Justice Office organized the workshop, which included informational presentations by state, local, and endowment institutions. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the requirements for filling out grant application forms and to demonstrate how to prepare a good proposal. Feedback from workshop participants was extremely positive.

The region has initiated a project to help identify what local residents and community representatives identified as their main environmental problems and to address these problems with community suggestions and recommendations. The project includes an investigation of community concerns and perspectives, demographics, and economic and health

factors in targeted urban areas.

The Region X Lead Program is continuing to target resources and grants towards projects in people of color and low-income communities. The projects include examining lead concentrations in drinking water, dust, soil, and paint in child care centers, elementary schools, and public facilities.

Region X is completing an analysis of Superfund actions using a methodology similar to The Environmental Law Journal's report on EPA sites within the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (Special Supplement, 9/21/92). This project will examine if people of color and low-income communities in Region X receive less stringent enforcement measures at Superfund sites.

Region X is continuing work with other local and state agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects in low-income communities and communities of color. These efforts include working towards standardizing databases and definitions relevant to the analysis of environmental justice, so that the findings are useful to EPA, state, and local communities.

Region X has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Refugee Federation Service, an Asian Pacific American community group. The region and the community will work together to determine the scope and feasibility of an Asian Pacific American seafood consumption study in the Puget Sound area. The study will focus on seafood consumption patterns among Asian Pacific Americans. This information will be valuable in the calculation of protective human health criteria and will provide the region with the tools to develop appropriate outreach activities for these populations.

#### **APPENDIX I - EPA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL CHARTER MEMBERSHIP**

##### **COUNCIL:**

Richard Moore, Chair  
Clarice Gaylord, Designated Federal Official

Bunyan Bryant University of Michigan Robert Bullard Clark Atlanta University Mable Butler Orange County Florida  
Commissioner Herman Ellis Rohn and Haas Company

Deeohn Ferris Washington Office for Environmental Justice  
John Hall Texas Natural Resources Conservation Comm. Dolores Herrera Albuquerque San Jose Community  
Awareness Council Hazel Johnson People for Community Recovery Richard Lazarus Washington University School of  
Law Charles Lee United Church of Christ Commission on Env. Justice Charles McDermott Waste Management, Inc.  
Richard Moore (Chair) SW Network for Environmental and Econ. Justice Laurie Morissette EG&G, Inc. John O'Leary  
Pierce, Atwood, & Scribner Michael Pierle Monsanto Peggy Saika Asian Pacific Environmental Network Jean Sindab  
National Council of Churches Gail Small Native Action Cindy Thomas Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
Baldemar Velasquez Farm Labor Organizing Committee Velma Veloria Washington State Legislature Nathalie Walker  
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund Beverly Wright Xavier University

##### **EPA NEJAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS**

##### **Public Participation and Accountability Subcommittee:**

Peggy Saika, Chair  
Robert Knox, Designated Federal Official

Dana Alston Public Welfare Foundation Carl Anthony Earth Island Institute

Mable Butler\* Commissioner, Orange County Florida  
Domingo Gonzales Texas Center for Policy Studies Dolores Herrera\* Albuquerque San Jose Community Awareness  
John Kyte National Association of Manufacturers Pam Tau Lee University of California, Berkeley John O'Leary\*  
Pierce, Atwood & Scribner Peggy Saika\* (Chair) Asian Pacific Environmental Network Cindy Thomas\* Tlingit and  
Haida Indian Tribes of AK Beverly Wright\* Xavier University Baldemar Velasquez\* Farm Labor Organizing  
Committee

##### **Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee:**

Charles Lee, Chair  
Jan Young, Designated Federal Official

Sue Briggum WMX  
Irasema Coronado University of Arizona Michael Guererro SWOF  
Fran Dubrowski Alliance for Justice Donald Elisburg Laborer's Intl. Union of North America David Hahn-Baker

Inside-Out

Lillian Kawasaki LA Department of Environment Tom Kennedy ASTSWHO

Kevin Ladaris

Student Environment Action Coalition

Charles Lee\* (Chair) UC of Christ Commission on Racial Justice Mildred McClain Citizens for Environmental Justice

Michael Pierle\* Monsanto

Jon Sesso Silverbow Mt. Planning Committee Jean Sindab\* National Council of Churches Lenny Siegel Pacific Studies

Center Jonathan Taylor Cherokee Nation Connie Tucker Southern Organizing Committee Velma Veloria\* State of

Washington Nathalie Walker\* Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund Pat Williams NWF

Enforcement Subcommittee:

Deeohn Ferris, Chair

Sherry Milan, Designated Federal Official

Hope Babcock Georgetown Law Center Pat Bryant Gulf Coast Tenants Organization Denise Ferguson-Southard State

of Maryland Deeohn Ferris\* (Chair) Washington Office for Env. Justice Sylvia Herrera People Organized in Defense

of Earth Resources Richard Lazarus\* Washington University Richard Moore\* SW Network for Env. & Econ. Justice

Laurie Morissette\* EG&G, Inc. Art Ray PEPCO

Gail Small\* Native Action

Health and Research Subcommittee:

Robert Bullard, Chair

Lawrence Martin, Designated Federal Official

Jose Bravo Environmental Health Coalition Bunyan Bryant\* University of Michigan Robert Bullard\* (Chair) Clark

Atlanta University

Herman Ellis\*

Rohm and Haas Company

Benjamin Goldman Jobs & Environment Campaign Tom Goldtooth Red Band of Chippewa Indians Hazel Johnson\*

People for Community Recovery Chuck McDermott\* Waste Management, Inc. Raphael Metzger COSSHMO

Dr. Janet Phoenix National Safety Council

Bailus Walker

University of Oklahoma

■ Denotes Members of Council

**APPENDIX II- LIST OF MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

CONTACT OFFICE FOR CURRENT MATERIALS 1-800-962-6215

EJ HOTLINE BROCHURE

37

EJ HOTLINE BROCHURE (SPANISH)

38

EARTH DAY MESSAGE FROM PRES. CLINTON 4/94 41

EPA ORGANIZATION LIST - HEADQUARTERS

48

EPA ORGANIZATION LIST - REGIONAL

49

EPA'S EJ ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

47

OSWER EJ TASK FORCE REPORT

46

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898

20

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER - FACT SHEET 21

PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

26

RECOMMENDATIONS: HEALTH SYMPOSIUM - 2/94 52

REDUCING RISK COMMUNITIES: VOL. I

2

REDUCING RISK COMMUNITIES: VOL. II

3

SERVING A DIVERSE SOCIETY BROCHURE 6

SERVING A DIVERSE SOCIETY BROCHURE (SPANISH) 7

SLIDES: EJ--CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF 90'S 45

SMALL GRANTS REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

15

SMALL GRANTS AWARDED: FY 1994

16

TOWARD DIVERSITY

14

TOXIC WASTE & RACE (UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST) 1987

8

UNIVERSITY/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS - REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS

53

**APPENDIX III - ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT**

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A

AIEO ..... American Indian Environmental Office ALA ..... American Lung Association APTMD..... Air, Pesticides, & Toxics Management Division (Region IV) ARD ..... Air and Radiation Division ATSDR ..... Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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C

CAA ..... Clean Air Act  
CAG ..... Community Advisory Group CDC ..... Centers for Disease Control CERCLA ..... Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act CRUW ..... Coalition to Restore Urban Water CWA ..... Clean Water Act

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D

DFO..... Designated Federal Official DOJ..... Department of Justice

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E

EIS ..... Environmental Impact Statement EPA ..... Environmental Protection Agency EJ..... Environmental Justice EJC ..... Environmental Justice Coordinators

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F

FFEO..... Federal Facilities Enforcement Office

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G

GAP ..... General Assistance Program GIS ..... Geographic Information System GLNPO ..... Great Lakes National Program Office GLO ..... Greater Leadership Opportunities Program GRO ..... Goal Setters's Reaching for Opportunities

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## H

HBCU's ..... Historically Black Colleges and Universities HUD ..... Department of Housing and Urban Development

## I

IWG ..... Interagency Working Group

## L

LLRW ..... Low Level Radioactive Waste

## M

MDE ..... Maryland Department of the Environment MOA ..... Memorandum of Agreement MOU ..... Memorandum of Understanding

## N

NAAQS ..... Non-Attainment Air Quality Standards NCHS ..... National Center for Health Statistics NEJAC ..... National Environmental Justice Advisory Council NEPA ..... National Environmental Policy Act NETI ..... National Enforcement Training Institute NHANES ..... National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey NPL ..... National Priorities List NPDES ..... National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

## O

OAQPS ..... Office of Air Quality and Planning Standards OAR ..... Office of Air and Radiation OARM ..... Office of Administration and Resource Management OCEPA ..... Office of Communications, Education, and Public Affairs OCR ..... Office of Civil Rights OECA ..... Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance OEJ ..... Office of Environmental Justice OFA ..... Office of Federal Activities OGC ..... Office of General Counsel OIA ..... Office of International Activities OIRM ..... Office of Information Resources Management OPPE ..... Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation OPPTS ..... Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances ORD ..... Office of Research and Development ORE ..... Office of Regulatory Enforcement ORE-MED ..... Office of Regulatory Enforcement's Multimedia Enforcement Division ORE-RED ..... Office of Regulatory Enforcement's RCRA Enforcement Division ORE-TPED ..... Office of Regulatory Enforcement's Toxics & Pesticides Enforcement Division ORIA ..... Office of Radiation and Indoor Air OSDBU ..... Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization OSHA ..... Occupational Safety and Health Administration OSWER ..... Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response OW ..... Office of Water

## P

PECT ..... Population Estimation and Characterization Tool PETE ..... Partnership for Environmental Technology Education PPW ..... Partners for Pure Water PRASA ..... Puerto Rico Aqueduct & Sewer Authority PSD ..... Passive Sampling Devices PWS ..... Public Water Supply

## R

RA ..... Regional Administrator RCRA ..... Resource Conservation and Recovery Act RCRIS ..... Resource Conservation Recovery Information System RRIIFS ..... Remedial Removal and integrated Investigation Feasibility Study

## S

SEDESOL ..... Secretariat for Social Development SEP's ..... Supplemental Environmental Projects

## T

TCI ..... Tribal College Initiative TIGER ..... Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Reference System TOC ..... Tribal Operations Committee TRI ..... Toxic Release Inventory TSCA ..... Toxic Substances Control Act TWDB ..... Texas Water Development Board

## U

UMD ..... University of Maryland URI ..... Urban Environmental Initiative USDA ..... U.S. Department of Agriculture

## W

WEL ..... Women's Executive Leadership Program WIPP ..... Waste Isolation Pilot Plant WPS ..... Worker Protection Standards